

# Black Lives Matter

## Decolonise our Universities and Colleges – NOW

**T**he Black Lives Matter movement in the US, UK and globally has responded as an inspiring mass movement, in solidarity with the family of George Floyd and challenging systemic racism across the world.

The UK is not innocent, and our universities and colleges are part of this systemic racism and, as a union, we must do all we can to resist this and make fundamental changes to eradicate deep structural racism. Decolonising our curriculum is not just about our reading lists – although these are crucial and very important – but the whole structure and conduct of an educational institution. From omissions of histories to exclusions of employment of Black and Asian and other minorities, UK Universities and Colleges have to face up to the fact that they have to change.

Most HE and FE institutions have been rushing out to make supportive statements on BLM movement and we should welcome that. However, most institutions are not addressing the BAME attainment gap and at the same time they have used the Covid 19 crisis to cynically cut jobs and issue mass redundancy notices and we all know that the few black academics and tutors – mainly on casualised contracts will be out of the door of these institutions first.

This zoom meeting, involving both UCU activists and students, will discuss the way forward for the union as it is most urgent and critical for all those who want to put into practice the inspiring BLM call. The meeting will be structured into two rounds of invited speakers so that as many attendees as possible are able to contribute.

## Black Lives Matter - Decolonise Our Universities and Colleges

**Thursday 2 July 7.00pm - 8.30pm**

**Bell Ribeiro-Addy** Labour MP

**Maxine Looby** NEC FE, ESOL Lecturer Oldham College, UCU Black Members Committee

**Dr. Shalini Sharma** Lecturer in Colonial and Postcolonial History Keele University

Director Of PG Studies , member of Decolonise Keele Network (DKN), UCU Black Members Committee

**Anita Israel** Ex - Education Officer, Arts SU, University of the Arts London.

Co-curator of zine 'Decolonising our Arts Curriculum: Perspectives in Higher Education' zine 2.

**Dr. Victoria Showunmi** NEC HE, Lecturer Education UCL and Chair Black Members Committee UCU

**Nadia Ibrahim** Student Stand up to Racism (SUTR)

**Dr. Jason Arday** Assistant Professor Sociology Durham University Black Members Committee UCU

Called by London Region with contributions from Black Members Committee UCU

Register here: <https://bit.ly/2VuCcrM>

