

Dear all,

I'm writing to just let you know about some of the things that have been happening since my election earlier this term. I have now been in the role three months, and I would just like to say a huge personal thank you for electing me to be the Black Teachers Constituency Seat holder. Work began from day one, and I hope to continue to work hard for our members up and down the country.

As I was elected the despicable treatment of the Windrush generation was coming into public knowledge. Our union was quick to release a statement of condemnation and demands. Calling for:

- All those deported should be entitled to return to Britain immediately.
- An immediate end to deportations and detention of Commonwealth Citizens.
- Guarantee protection of all Commonwealth Citizens.
- All those affected in any way be given compensation for deportation, threats of deportation, detention, loss of housing, jobs, benefits and denial of NHS treatment.
- No hostile environment

This was followed up with a public meeting, hosted at Hamilton House, with Diane Abbott MP.

As a union we must continue to be clear, we stand in solidarity with not only the Windrush generation, but all those adversely affected by the hostile environment. Including, our brothers and sisters being forced to quit their jobs and leave the country at short notice because they cannot obtain visas. #Let them teach. There may have been a change in Home Secretary, but the racist legislation remains, so we must continue to build the resistance.

On 14th June, it was the one-year anniversary of the Grenfell Tower disaster. Myself and other executive members attended the silent march that evening. The tower stands there as a monument to the cost of austerity; the cost of cutting local authority funding; the cost of outsourcing council housing; the cost of being poor; the cost of gentrification; the cost of inequality, the cost of being black. I am proud that again our union supported the 'Green for Grenfell' day in schools. I am also proud that our union stood in solidarity with the Fire Brigades Union, who have been facing unfair criticism throughout the public enquiry. The criminals wear suits, they are not fire fighters. The fight for justice continues.

I am sure many of you have seen in the media, the frightening size of Far-Right demonstrations in recent months. The Football Lads Alliance, plan to normalise and spread the most vitriolic anti-Muslim hatred and to build a new far-right movement based on the growth of anti-Muslim groups across Europe. Organising against the far right is all of our business. I have been working with Stand Up to Racism and others, to help develop a strategy to mobilise against the growing threat. We must all be out on the streets when the fascists march in our towns and cities.

We have also begun work on an antiracist charter for schools. Brothers and Sisters who were NEU delegates to the TUC Black Workers conference, have been invited to help develop this. The aim of the charter is to give school staff a tool, and the confidence to speak out against racism in their school setting.

It has been a busy couple of months. In that time, I have been pleased to get around the country and meet black members organising black member groups in London, Birmingham and Yorkshire Midlands. I hope to get around and meet more of you, hear your concerns and plan action. Don't

hesitate to contact me, I am here to be your voice. Don't hesitate to contact me at daniel.kebede@exec.neu.org.uk

For the people always,

Daniel