



General Meeting

Hackney District NEU



● **Keeping our children safe from racism and misogyny!**

Police in our schools?

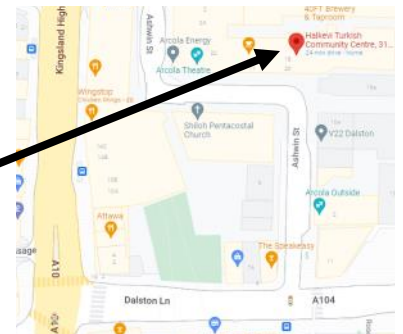
Following the recent news of police strip searching a 15 year old girl we are asking, 'What is the purpose of police in schools?' Dianne Abbott MP and Daniel Kebede (NEU President) will be speaking at this meeting.



Come and discuss how we can safeguard our students and how we can make our policies and procedures more child centred.

Monday 28th March @5pm

on zoom and at the Halkevi Centre 31-33 Dalston Lane E8 3DF



Crèche available/ childcare expenses paid, cab fares paid

Agenda

1. Request for Suspensions
2. Minutes from previous General Meeting
3. Matters arising (10 minutes)
4. Fixed business (see above)
5. Information from committee meetings (see minutes)
6. Secretary's and Officers' report.
8. Motions
9. Correspondence
10. AOB



Zoom details: Meeting ID: 985 3328 7469 passcode 146250

Minutes: Hackney GM Feb 28th

Agreed minutes from previous GM. Agreed to take emergency motion.

Louise Regan spoke on Challenging Sexism in Schools. Very useful discussion. Some key points:

Circulate NEU Resources she talked about and

Set up anti-sexism groups in schools and develop anti-sexist work

Approach SLT

Look at pay discrimination: women, especially over 50 and returning from maternity + black educators most likely not to progress on pay scale. Re. maternity – contrary to Equalities law

Richard asked what the union had done about his amendment for Annual Conference motion on Sexism, to encourage mens'/boys' groups in schools, as they were the problem. Louise not sure and would get back to him.

Secretary's Report: Dave reported back but we need feedback from schools.

Moves in school to become more hard line on sickness absence, insisting on return to work meetings etc. Need to put out guidance

Workload: being ramped up. Circulate guidelines, encourage school groups to collectivise issues

Pay. Pay survey: can't move to ballot at moment (turnout etc). But need to keep pressure. Demonstrate 23rd March – details to come out

Emergency motion on Ukraine, including two amendments:

Hackney NEU notes the plight of the Ukrainian people and agrees to donate £200 to the Red Cross Ukraine Crisis Appeal.

Hackney NEU welcomes refugees from Ukraine and elsewhere to this country and condemns the failure of the government to facilitate this.

This amendment passed:

We endorsed this statement:

Statement on Ukraine Situation

As organisations working with marginalised communities in the UK, we express our deep concern at the escalating conflict in Ukraine, which will result in catastrophic loss of life, suffering, and subsequently lead to many fleeing the country as refugees.

We view this as an opportunity for Britain to demonstrate that it is a welcoming nation, and ask that the Government does what is right for the people of Ukraine who seek refuge in the UK. Many people in the communities we support have first-hand experience of the horrors that those in Ukraine are now facing. We have an opportunity to make sure our immigration system does not add trauma to trauma.

We are also very concerned to hear reports of black and Asian people trying to flee Ukraine but facing discrimination at the borders (particularly at those with Poland). The support we give to Ukraine must be made available to all people in peril regardless of their ethnicity or countries of birth.

We urge that the Nationality and Borders Bill in its current form is immediately revised, as it will criminalise Ukraine nationals based on their resettlement routes, and subject them to inadmissibility procedures, which will in turn prevent them from achieving full refugee status.

We strongly hope that the Government reconsiders this harmful bill and its impact in shaping a hostile environment for migrants, including those impacted by the current conflict in Ukraine.

Signed

Race On The Agenda

Voice 4 Change England

Caribbean and African Health Network

Statement from Hackney NEU over the case of Child Q

Hackney NEU is appalled by the findings of the Local Child Safeguarding Practice Review into the treatment of Child Q. Every student in our schools has a right to be treated respectfully, and for their wellbeing and safety to be a priority. Instead, she faced racial stereotyping and what the report has clearly identified as racist treatment by the police. She experienced misogynistic and humiliating behaviour that showed no respect for her as a human being, and that treated a vulnerable teenage girl as an adult. We extend our full sympathy and solidarity to Child Q and her family and echo their calls for this never to happen again.

As teachers and staff in Hackney schools we are told that the police work with us so as to protect our students and their parents, our staff and the wider community. Instead, we have witnessed not only appalling racism and sexism, but clear breaches of safeguarding procedures that not only failed to protect Child Q but also seemed intended to humiliate and criminalise her. We will be issuing guidance to Hackney members that will reiterate the importance of challenging racist and sexist practices in situations such as this, and of the importance of following safeguarding procedures and good practice, including working with students and their families. We will also stress that staff have a duty to challenge unacceptable behaviour in such circumstances, whether by other staff, including senior managers, the police or other outside agencies. They also have a right to be supported in this.

We understand a lot of work has gone on with the school since this happened, including further training of staff. However, we call upon Hackney Education and on the governing bodies of all schools and academies to ensure that they continue to develop anti-racist practices and they clarify safeguarding procedures to staff. Such training should include a clear explanation of how staff relate to police, including, for example, the need for the presence of an appropriate adult.

Motion about Child Q

Hackney NEU:

Expresses its shock and anger over the Local Child Safeguarding Practice Review into the treatment of Child Q, who was strip searched by police in a Hackney School, and extends its full sympathy and solidarity to Child Q and her family and echo their calls for this never to happen again.

Condemns the behaviour of the police and their failure to adhere to guidelines on safeguarding and notes that instead Child Q faced racial stereotyping and what the report has clearly identified as racist misogynistic and humiliating treatment by the police, who treated a vulnerable teenage girl as an adult and showed no respect for her as a human being.

That schools and colleges should be safe places for students and staff, and they have a right to be safeguarded, and to be given support where necessary. Calling in the police should only happen in exceptional circumstances, and proper procedures need to be adhered to.

We agree:

To send messages of support to Child Q and her family and to those campaigning for an end to abusive behaviour by police towards our young people

To provide updated guidance for members over safeguarding, such guidance to include:

A stress on the importance of challenging racist and sexist practices in situations such as this
the importance of following safeguarding procedures and good practice, including working with students and their families

Guidance that staff have a duty to challenge unacceptable behaviour towards students, whether by other staff, including senior managers, the police or other outside agencies and have a right to be supported in this

The need for families to be involved and for an appropriate adult to be present at all times in such situations

To call upon Hackney Education to review and if necessary end the arrangements for attaching police officers to schools, and to produce, in consultation with schools, unions and parents and community groups, guidelines to ensure such a situation can never occur again

