

Conference Motions:

Motions are formal proposals put forward by NEU branches or districts that call for the union to take a specific stance or action on an issue. At the NEU Annual Conference, these motions are debated and voted on by elected delegates from across the country. If a motion is passed, it becomes official union policy. This means the NEU will campaign, lobby, or organise around that issue. For members, motions are a way to shape the union's priorities and ensure the concerns of educators on the ground are heard and acted on at a national level.



Motion 23: Crisis in SEND – This motion highlighted the urgent national and local challenges facing SEND provision. The mover of the motion described the situation as “a tsunami of need met with a desert of funding.” It called for systemic reform, the scrapping of Delivering Better Value (DBV) and Safety Valve schemes, greater transparency around tribunal outcomes, and investment in early intervention and adequate funding.

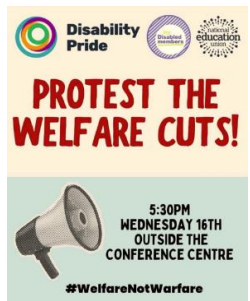
Tower Hamlets delegate Maria delivered a powerful speech when moving Amendment 23.1. She highlighted the problematic ‘postcode lottery’ in EHCP processes, delays in plan delivery, and the looming threat of council bankruptcy. The amendment called for national recognition of regional inequalities and proper funding for inclusive education.



SEND Resources for Members:

Following this motion, the union shared new resources to support members:

- **National SEND Crisis Report:** <https://neu.org.uk/press-releases/state-education-send-and-sendcos>
- **Trauma-Informed Toolkit:** <https://neu.org.uk/advice/classroom/behaviour-schools/trauma-informed-practice-and-approach>



Disabled Member's Welfare not Warfare Protest:

During the NEU Annual Conference, disabled members held a protest in response to Labour's proposed £5 billion cuts to disability benefits, including plans to revise eligibility for Personal Independence Payments (PIP). While the union is not affiliated to any political party, it recognises the serious impact such changes could have on our students, particularly those who will need to apply for PIP, as this occurs at the age of 16. These proposals risk deepening inequalities and reducing access to vital support, having a detrimental impact on both our students and their families. The protest was a powerful reminder that education cannot be separated from social justice.



International Solidarity & SEND

Why International Solidarity Matters:

Some may question why the union also focuses on international struggles... Global conflict disrupts children's education, safety, and wellbeing, often exposing them to trauma, displacement, and long-term barriers to learning and development. Children with SEND are disproportionately impacted as access to healthcare is restricted, families are traumatised and access to education is limited.

Equality Rights Activist Zone Fringe:

One delegate shared that during Disability History Week, they highlighted the experiences of Palestinian children, emphasising how disabled children in the region face extraordinary challenges in accessing services, let alone accessing education.

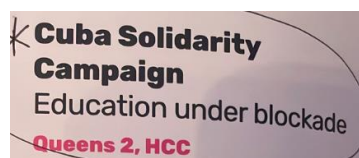
Equality Toolkits: Resources were shared during the equality fringe. *Link:* <https://neu.org.uk/advice/equality>



Disarm Education Fringe:

At Annual Conference, a Disarm Education fringe event highlighted growing concerns of the relationship between arms companies and schools and colleges. Following the fringe, a motion was brought forward and successfully passed with an amendment. The motion commits the union to affiliate with the Disarm Education campaign, support members involved, and provide guidance, in response to the millions invested annually by arms companies in education outreach.

SEND in Cuba: A Model of Inclusion:



The Cuba Solidarity Campaign shared how Cuba's education system offers a fully inclusive model for students with SEND, despite the blockade. Cuba ensures SEND provision is fully integrated across all schools, with all students being supported into further education and employment, creating a system where no one is left behind.



Rae, Tower Hamlets Equalities Officer and part of the NEU's 2024 Cuba delegation, spoke about the strong professional development Cuban teachers receive, including time off for training and ongoing peer support. The delegation report highlighted early intervention through school-based assessment centres, embedded family engagement and an investment in education by government.

Link to report here: <https://neu.org.uk/latest/library/cuba-delegation-report-2024>



Niurka Gonzalez, General Secretary of the Cuban teaching union, addressed delegates with a powerful speech about the current situation in Cuba and its impact on children and families. She expressed deep gratitude for the solidarity shown by the NEU and thanked members for their continued support.



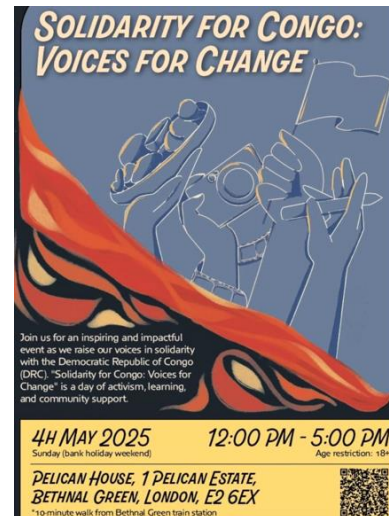
Link to Affiliate and Support the Campaign: <https://cuba-solidarity.org.uk/get-involved/affiliate/>

Solidarity for Congo: Upcoming Event on Sunday, May 4th 2025:

The humanitarian crisis in the **Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)** has displaced millions and devastated communities. Armed conflict, mineral exploitation, and political instability have left countless children traumatised, disabled and with severely disrupted education. This event will shine a light on the DRC's ongoing crisis and the vital role of international solidarity particularly in ensuring children are not forgotten.

The event has been organised by **Sala Ba (Croydon Vice-Chair and London International Solidarity Organising Forum representative)**, alongside other international solidarity officers from London.

Link to tickets: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/solidarity-for-congo-voices-for-change-tickets-1312696543699>



This event will also be attended by **Louise Regan, our former NEU Membership and Equalities Officer**, who has been a leading voice in the union's international solidarity work. From supporting education rights in war-torn countries to championing campaigns like Stand Up to Racism and Refugees Are Welcome Here, Louise has shown unwavering commitment to justice, inclusion, and global education.

Supporting Refugee Children in the UK:

I'll be working alongside Sala to organise a group of teachers to support refugee children with learning English and completing homework in London and surrounding areas.

If you are interested in getting involved, we would love to hear from you!

The End - Solidarity:

Ultimately, SEND students are among the most vulnerable and most overlooked. As a union, we can fight for a system that allows every child to participate and values every one of them. As your SEND Officer, I want to develop our collective understanding of this SEND crisis, not just to raise awareness, but to help us organise. Whether we work in mainstream or special schools, as teachers or support staff, we are educators and face the same challenges.

...Lastly, don't forget to vote! Or you'll get a call from Rosie.