

Leeds University UCU songbook

13 March 2020

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<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1IYX6OLMtXc0uTA9bXimfUaGTRh5lleQtgpyW00xn7s4/edit?usp=sharing>

Short link to this document: <https://tinyurl.com/t7vsy8e>

CHANTS

What do we want? Fair Pay!

When do we want it? Now!

-- Gender equality

-- Race equality

-- Reasonable workloads

-- Secure contracts

-- pension justice

'We are striking on our campus' or 'Four fights are coming round the mountain' (to the tune of 'She'll be coming round the mountain')

We are striking on our campus for fair pay (Fair! Pay!)

We are striking on our campus for fair pay (Fair! Pay!)

We are striking on our campus, striking on our campus, striking on our campus for fair pay

We are striking coz our workloads are too high (Too! High!)

We are striking coz our workloads are too high (Too! High!)

We are striking coz our workloads, striking coz our workloads, striking coz our workloads are too high

Did you know Leeds gender pay gap is twen-ty per-cent?!

Did you know Leeds gender pay gap is twen-ty per-cent?!

Did you know Leeds gender pay gap, know Leeds gender pay gap, know Leeds gender pay gap is twen-ty per-cent?!

We are striking on our campus for e-qual-it-y

We are striking on our campus for e-qual-it-y

We are striking on our campus, striking on our campus, striking on our campus for e-qual-it-y

We are striking on our campus for secure contracts

We are striking on our campus for secure contracts

We are striking on our campus, striking on our campus, striking on our campus for secure contracts

Pensions (to the tune of Rehab by Amy Winehouse)

Unis want to take our pensions
We said no no no
Yes, we are on strike
and we'll be outside
we won't work work work

I ain't got the time
And Unis think we are fine
They want to take away our pensions
We say no no no

I'd rather be at home today
I'll be striking for 14 days
Cause there's nothing Unis could do to convince me
So I will be withdrawing my labour away

I won't be teaching my class
I will be observing the digital picket line

Unis want to take our pensions
We said no no no
Yes, we are on strike
and we'll be outside
we won't work work work

HR said why do you think you're here?
I said, I got no idea
I'm on, I'm on a fixed term contract
So I will have to keep applying

He said: I think you are depressed
But in the meantime 'you should prepare for REF'

Unis want to take our pensions
We said no no no
Yes, we are on strike
and we'll be outside
we won't work work work

'Fair Pensions and Fair Pay' (To the tune of The Human League's 'Don't You Want Me?'):

you were working in a uni while your pension went down
when i met you
we picketed, we went on strike, we turned things around
as members of the UCU
Now two years later on, we've got a fight on our hands,

with huge workloads for me and you,
but don't forget the union can turn things around,
we know exactly what to do

Join, join the picket
the gender pay gap's massive and the workload is horrific
join, join the picket
Langlands won't believe it when we tell him where to stick it
it's not too late to find
employers, change your mind
we'll keep the pressure up or we will all be sorry

Fair pensions and fair pay
pay and pensions, oh!
Fair pensions and fair pay
pay and pensions, oh!

I was working in a uni while my pension went down
oh yes that's true
but even then i knew we'd get a much better deal,
as members of the UCU,
The two years we have had have been really tough times
for me and you
so now i think it's time to join the Leeds picket line
I guess it's just what we must do

Join, join the picket
the gender pay gap's massive and the workload is horrific
join, join the picket
Langlands won't believe it when we tell him where to stick it
it's not too late to find
employers, change your mind
we'll keep the pressure up or we will all be sorry

Fair pensions and fair pay
pay and pensions, oh!
Fair pensions and fair pay
pay and pensions, oh!

To the tune of 'Cheerleader' (Remixed) by OMI:
<https://youtu.be/jGflUbPQfW8>

[Verse 1:]
When I need motivation
My one solution is UCU
'Cause she stays strong
Yeah, yeah
UCU is in my corner
Right there when I want her
All these other unions are tempting

But I'm burnt out when you're gone
And they say

[Pre-chorus:]

Do you need me
To better your conditions?
Do I make you feel like cheating?
I'm like no, not really 'cause

[Chorus:]

Oh, I think that I've found myself a cheerleader
UCU is right there when I need her
Oh, I think that I've found myself a cheerleader
UCU is right there when I need her

[Verse 2:]

We may not walk like models
But we deserve secure contracts,
Fair workload models
Yeah, yeah
Our VC's no wizard of love
He ain't got a magic wand
All these other unions are tempting
But I'm burnt out when you're gone
And they say

[Pre-chorus:]

Do you need me
To better your conditions?
Do I make you feel like cheating?
I'm like no, not really 'cause

[Chorus:]

Oh, I think that I've found myself a cheerleader
UCU is right there when I need her
Oh, I think that I've found myself a cheerleader
UCU is right there when I need her

[Instrumental break]

[Bridge:]

UCU loves all her members
Baby, did I mention
You're the only union for me
No, I don't need a next one
My colleagues love you too
They think I made the right selection
Now all that's left to do
Is just for me to join the strike action!

[Chorus:]

Oh, I think that I've found myself a cheerleader
UCU is right there when I need her
Oh, I think that I've found myself a cheerleader
UCU is right there when I need her

We're All Striking (tune of "Summer Holiday")

We're all striking fo-or pay and equality,
We want a manageable workload too.
We want pensions a-a-and job security,
To make our dreams come true-oo-oo,
With UCU

We're striking when the sun shines brightly,
We're striking when the sno-ow falls too.
We strike when it's wet and windy.
'Cos we're strong with UCU-oo-oo-oo

We're all striking for-or pay and equality,
We want a manageable workload too.
We want pensions a-a-and job security,
To make our dreams come true-oo-oo,
With UCU

The Union Strikes with Might (tune of the Lion Sleeps Tonight)

In the union, the mighty union,
We're striking for our rights,
In the union, the mighty union,
We're fighting the four fights!

Oh Ooooooh and we all rally every day
Oh Ooooooh Because there is a better way

In the union, the mighty union,
Together we stand strong,
In the union, the mighty union,
We need you, come along!

Oh Oooooooh and we all rally every day
Oh Ooooooh because there is a better way

Join our solidarity
We are the university x 2

(instead of a wim a weh)
We want fair pay, We want fair pay
Equality Equality
Secure contracts, Secure contract
A sane workload!

x 2

Standing on the Picket Line (tune of Hanging on the Telephone by Blondie)

I'm on the picket, it's the one on Parky Steps,
If you don't listen, then you know what's coming next,
I know you're there, but you've got to accept

Don't leave us standing on the picket line,
Don't leave us standing on the picket line.

I heard UCEA, now they're going out the door,
Did they negotiate or just go to the store,
All those things they said, I told you to ignore.

Oh, why can't we talk again?
Oh, why can't we talk again?
Oh, why can't we talk again?

Don't leave us standing on the picket line,
Don't leave us standing on the picket line

It's hard to be on strike you know it's been so long,
If you don't sort it out, we'll keep it going on
I want to tell you something you've known all along.

Don't leave us standing on the picket line

(Musical interlude!)

We had to interrupt and stop this conversation
Our workload keeps increasing all across the nation
And did we even mention casualisation?

Oh, we can't control ourselves
Oh, we can't control ourselves
Oh, we can't control ourselves
Don't leave us standing on the picket line
Come out and strike with us!
Whoa, oh, oh, oh strike with us, yeah.

Placards out (tune of Roar by Katy Perry)

I was shortlisted for an interview
They have a job I really wanna do
So I sat quietly

Accepted the salary
Student debt felt like I had no choice
Workload has me at a breaking point
Now I fear nothing
So I 'll be striking
Placards out, they're going up
Already blocking out the door
You hear that sound, it's the union crowd
Our striking is gonna shake the ground
Placards out, they're going up
Ucu has had enough
We have the union behind us
We are striking
Saving to retire
Cause we want our pensions and we're gonna win it all
We're fighting, fighting in alliance
Cause we want our pension
And we are gonna win it all
In solidarity we are going to strike
We support ucu 4 fights
We'll keep in striking
We'll keep on striking

We are striking and we know it! (tune of I'm sexy and I know it by LMAFO)

Yeah
Yeah
When we march on by
Unis be looking like damn they fly
We strike to the beat
We don't think education is a commodity, yeah
This is how we roll
Workload, paygap, out of control
It's UCU we continue to grow
We'll see you at the picket whether it rains or snow, yeah

Chorus (x2)
We strike for fair pensions
We strike for fair pensions
We strike for fair pensions
And 4 fights!

When I stand in the picket
This is what I see
All my comrades are standing in solidarity
We believe in the 4 fights
And we ain't afraid to show it
Show it, Show it, show it

We are striking and we know it!
We are striking and we know it!

Yeah,
Our Union is strong, Unis are scare to fight us all
Whether you are staff or teach, you shouldn't live precariously
This is how we roll, come on UCU it's time to go
We're headed to the fight but don't be nervous
Four fights, fair pensions, yes, we do deserve it.

Chorus (x2)
We strike for fair pensions
We strike for fair pensions
We strike for fair pensions
And 4 fights!

When I stand in the picket
This is what I see
All my comrades are standing with me
We believe in the 4 fights
And we ain't afraid to show it
Show it, Show it, show it,
We are striking and we know it!
We are striking and we know it!

Check it out
Check it out

Equal, equal, equal, equal, equal, pay
We want equal pay
We want equal pay
Yeah
We are striking and we know it.

Chorus (x2)
We strike for fair pensions
We strike for fair pensions
We strike for fair pensions
And 4 fights!

Strike with us (tune of Shake it off by Taylor Swift)

I keep working late
My workload is insane
That's what colleagues say mmmm
That's what colleagues say mmmm

Got too much on my plate
I'm really underpaid
That's what colleagues say mmmm
That's what colleagues say mmmm

I keep commuting
Unis keep me moving
It's like they're kinda stupid
My union rep
says we're gonna be just fine
(x2)
Cause Unis wanna cut my pay pay pay
I keep working late late late late
My union is here to stay stay stay stay
Strike with us strike with us

I have a painful knee
From striking on my feet
That's what they don't see mmmm
That's what they don't see mmmm

We are not striking on our own (not striking on our own)
Our students are with us (students are with us)
The Union keeps us strong mmmm
The Union keeps us strong mmmm

I keep commuting
Unis keep me moving
It's like they're kinda stupid
My union rep
says we're gonna be just fine
(x2)
Cause Unis wanna cut my pay pay pay
I keep working late late late late
My union is here to stay stay stay stay
Strike with us strike with us

Seven Uni Army (Tune of Seven Nation Army by the White Stripes)

We're gonna fight 'em all
A seven Uni army couldn't hold us back
We're gonna go on strike
Want to take our pension behind our backs

And I'm talking to myself at night
Because a big workload
Back and forth on a train
That I can't really afford

And the emails coming from HR
Say to leave it alone

We want you to hear about it
Every ucu member got a story to tell
Everyone knows about it
14 days of strike and we're ready to yell

And if I catch you coming back my way
I'll give a flyer to you
But if you're environmentally friendly check us online too

Cause the union keep us really strong
We won't go home
We're gonna win this fight
Or will be striking for evermore
We'll hold the picket line
Our angry librarians are really hardcore
And we're winning, and we're winning, and we're winning
The union keeps strong
If we win our pension and the 4 fights
I will strike no more
Solidarity runs through our blood
So we can't go home

Help! (Tune of Help! by the Beatles)

Help! I need my Union
Help! Not just any union
Help! You know I need my Union
Help!
When I was younger, so much younger than today
I never thought I would need to strike not in any way
But I'm casualised staff and my job is so insecure
Now my Uni changed its mind, and they want me out the door
Strike with me if you can, I'm feeling down
And I appreciate UCU being 'round
Help me strike on the picket line
Won't you please, please help me?
And now my workload has increased in oh so many ways
I work on weekends and I am also underpaid
Then I remember that my pension it's almost gone
I know that I just need UCU like I've never done before
Strike with me if you can, I'm feeling down
And I do appreciate UCU being 'round
Help me strike on the picket line
Won't you please, please help me?
When I was younger, so much younger than today
I never thought I would need to strike not in any way
But I'm casualised staff and my job is so insecure

Now my Uni changed its mind, and they want me out the door
Strike with me if you can, I'm feeling down
And I appreciate UCU being 'round
Help me strike on the picket line
Won't you please, please help me?

These Boots Are Made for Striking

(Tune: These Boots are Made for Walking by Nancy Sinatra -
<https://youtu.be/SbyAZQ45uww>)

We keep saying that we want some changes.
You just tell us you ain't got the loot.
You've been building what you shouldn't be building.
So we're putting on our picket boots

These boots are made for striking
That's what they're gonna do.
All of these days these boots
Are gonna strike for UCU.

You ain't paying what you ought to be paying
You keep thinking we ain't very strong.
You're forgetting that we stand together
And our boots are gonna prove you wrong.

These boots are made for striking
That's what they're gonna do.
All of these days these boots
Are gonna strike for UCU.

Wild rover

I went to a cafe I used to frequent
and I told the Barrista me money was spent
I asked them for discount, they said yes of course
For we value the custom of a strong labour force

And it's no, nay, never
No nay never no more!
We will strike and we'll picket
for fair wages for all

We went to UCEA to negotiate
Saying catch and keep up with the inflation rate
We want action now on the gender pay gap
your casualised high workload contracts are crap

They said they would not raise up all of our pay.
gave a real terms pay cut and told us "Go away."
The VCs gave them selves a major pay hike

Saying we must compete but you all are alike

We'll come out on dispute, with student support.
They say "your fight is our fight" we're with you in force.
We'll be out in all weathers with smiles on our face,
And we're ready to talk, any time any place.

Down by the picket line

(to the tune of Down by the Riverside -
<https://twitter.com/leedsucu/status/1202218238115008513>)

I'm gonna fight for [My USS / A fair pay rise / A sane workload / Secure Contracts / Equality]
Down by the picket line,
Down by the picket line,
Down by the picket line!
I'm gonna fight for [My USS / A fair pay rise / A sane workload / Secure Contracts / Equality]
Down by the picket line,
And I ain't gonna work today.

I'm gonna strike all day today,
I'm gonna strike all day today,
Strike, all day, toda-a-a-y,
I'm gonna strike all day today,
I'm gonna strike all day today,
Down by the picket line.

ASOS..version.

I'm gonna lay down my heavy workload
Holding the ASOS line,
Holding the ASOS line,
Holding the ASOS line!
I'm gonna lay down my heavy workload
Holding the ASOS line,
Ain't gonna over work no more

Chorus:
Ain't gonna over work no more
Ain't gonna over work no more
Over work no mo-o-ore!
Ain't gonna over work no more
Ain't gonna over work no more
Holding the ASOS line

Verse 2
I'm gonna stand with the UCU

Verse 3
I'm gonna stop work at 5pm

Verse 4

We're gonna win back a fair pay rise,

Verse 5

We're gonna win contract dignity

Verse 6

We're gonna get back our USS

UCU

To the tune of Abba's Waterloo (Backing track here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OoXHzV6sfKs>) By Sarah Hudspith

My my!

Two years ago the bosses did surrender.

Oh yeah!

And now we're back to fight on contracts, stress and equal pay.

The angry librarians shout

The VCs had better watch out.

UCU

Never surrender, we'll win this war

UCU

Protecting our members for evermore

UCU

Join us today if you're feeling blue

UCU

Stronger together in UCU

Soli-solidarity, UCU

Stronger together in UCU.

Each day

New members join and picket lines grow longer,

Oh yeah!

And now we see the students add their voices to the fight.

Negotiate please, UUK!

And listen to what we all say!

UCU

Never surrender, we'll win this war

UCU

Protecting our members for evermore

UCU

Join us today if you're feeling blue

UCU

Stronger together in UCU

Soli-solidarity, UCU

Stronger together in UCU.

Negotiate please, UUK!
And listen to what we all say!4

UCU
Join us today if you're feeling blue
UCU
Stronger together in UCU
Soli-solidarity, UCU
Stronger together in UCU.
Ooh-ooh, UCU
Stronger together in UCU.

U. C.E. A. (Oh Why Won't You Pay)

To the tune of YMCA: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rNxYukc7t-4>

Lyrics by Ghost of Edward Boyle Twitter @ghostofEddieBo

VCs, there's no need to feel down
Oh VCs, pick yourself off the ground,
Oh VCs, you just need to back down
There's no need to be unhappy
VCs, there's a place you can go
Oh VCs, why not share out your dough
With your workers, we just want a fair deal
and an end to insecure work

We want to say to the U. C. E. A.
There's inequality – Why Won't you Pay?
Gender pay gaps remain, casual contracts the same
You should hang all your heads in shame
We want to say to the U. C. E. A.
there's real wage cuts, oh Why Won't You pay?
Pensions taking a hit, workloads totally shit
All our issues are totes legit.

VCs, are you listening to me?
Oh VCs, who do you want to be?
I said, VCs, you can make real your dreams
But you got to know this one thing
No one, does it all by their self
Oh VCs, put your pride on the shelf
And just go there, to the U.C.E.A
And get them to NEG-OT-I-ATE

We want to say to the U.C.E.A.
There's inequality – Why Won't you Pay?
Gender pay gaps remain, casual contracts the same
You should hang all your heads in shame

We want to say to the U.C.E.A.
there's real wage cuts, oh Why Won't You Pay?
Pensions taking a hit, workloads totally shit
All our issues are totes legit.

There is power, in the union, my friend
We will picket, from the start to the end
We are comrades, who will fight for what's right
From the dawn deep into the night
Four Fights – but one loud voice, its true
We will stand firm, we are the UCU
We will campaign with our members and Reps
And then SING – LOUD – ON – PAR-KY -STEPS

We want to say to the U.C.E.A.
There's inequality – Why Won't you Pay?
Gender pay gaps remain, casual contracts the same
You should hang all your heads in shame
We want to say to the U.C.E.A.
there's real wage cuts, oh Why Won't You Pay?
Pensions taking a hit, workloads totally shit
All our issues are totes legit

UCEA, There's inequality
Why Won't you Pay
Gender Pay Gaps Remain, Casual Contracts the Same
You Should Hang all your Heads in Shame
(Repeat to fade)

500 miles

Lyrics by Ghost of Edward Boyle Twitter @ghostofEddieBo
To the tune of 500 miles by the Proclaimers:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TPgG_1JxuYw

When I wake up, well I know I'm gonna be,
I'm gonna be the one supporting UCU
When I go out, yeah I know I'm gonna be
I'm gonna be the one who's picketing with you
If I come here, well I know I'm gonna be
I'm gonna be the one who's striking in the rain
And when I've done that, yeah I'll come back here tomorrow
And we'll picket, strike and sing our songs again
But I would walk 500 miles
And I would walk 500 more
Just to be the one who walks a thousand miles
To UCEA's door
When I'm working, well my workload's really high
But my pension's under threat from UUK
And when the money, comes in for the work I do

Its getting chipped away in real terms every day
When I joined up well I know I was gonna be
Part of a union that wants equality
Casual contracts – we all know they're really bad
More security that's what we want to see
But I would walk 500 miles
And I would walk 500 more
Just to be the one who walks a thousand miles
To UCEA's door
Decent pensions! (decent pensions)
Better wages (better wages)
Da da da dun diddle un diddle un diddle un da da
Casual contracts (boooooooooo)
Crappy workloads (boooooooooo)
Da da da dun diddle un diddle un diddle uh da
When I'm lonely, well I know I'm gonna do
I'm gonna do some digital picketing with you
And when I'm dreaming, well I know I'm gonna dream
Dream Of a pension that's' defined for me and you
When I go out (when I go out) well I know I'm gonna go
I'm gonna fundraise at the Chemic hardship gig
And when I come home (when I come home) yes I know I'm gonna tweet
Hashtag UCU StrikeBacks lets tweet it big
Hashtag UCU Strikes Back – go UCU
But I would walk 500 miles
And I would walk 500 more
Just to be the one who walks a thousand miles
To UCEA's door
Decent pensions! (decent pensions)
Better wages (better wages)
Da da da dun diddle un diddle un diddle un da da
Casual contracts (boooooooooo)
Crappy workloads (boooooooooo)
Da da da dun diddle un diddle un diddle uh da
Da da da (da da da)
Da da da (da da da)
Da da da dun diddle un diddle un diddle uh da
Da da da (da da da)
Da da da (da da da)
Da da da dun diddle un diddle un diddle uh da

But I would walk 500 miles
And I would walk 500 more
Just to be the one who walks a thousand miles
To UCEA's door

Level 13 can you hear us?

To the tune of John Brown's Body/Battle Hymn of the Republic

By Rose Sawyer

Oh University UK were worried about risk,
They put their heads together and decided who to frisk,
'We'll take it from the pensions, hurry up
make this brisk!'
Now we want our pension back.

Chorus:

Level 13 can you hear us?
Level 13 can you hear us?
Level 13 can you hear us?
'Cause we want our pension back.

Is there aught they will not do-o in their hope to keep us tame?
They have sent us stern reminders, they have loaded us with blame,
Now when we work to contract our due pay is still fair game,
Still we want our pension back.

Chorus

It is we who wrote the lectures; kept this place right up to scratch;
Ran the office, sorted tech, supported every student batch;
Now we stand outside of Parky, we are staking out our patch;
'Cause we want our pension back.

Chorus

The uni that's before us isn't like the one of old,
Student fees are rising higher, like the buildings we behold,
They are built on casual contracts, library cuts and a leasehold,
So we want our pension back.

Chorus

It's not just about the pension, now we've had the time to think,
Yes we love the work we do here, but you've pushed us to the brink,
So we'll work for bigger changes, yeah we'll really cause a stink,
When we've got our pension back.

Chorus

In our hands is placed a power greater than their hoarded gold,
Greater than the might of armies, multiplied a thousand-fold.
We can bring to birth a new world from the ashes of the old
For the union makes us strong.

Chorus:

Solidarity forever,
Solidarity forever,
Solidarity forever,

For the union makes us strong.

Ilkley Moor Baht 'at

Where hast tha been since I saw thee, I saw thee?

On thy short-term contracts.

Where hast tha been since I saw thee, I saw thee?

Where hast tha been since I saw thee?

On thy short-term contracts.

On thy short-term contracts.

On thy short-term contracts.

And didst tha get thy summer paid, summer paid?

On thy short-term contracts.

And didst tha get tha summer paid, summer paid?

And didst tha get tha summer paid?

On thy short-term contracts.

On thy short-term contracts.

On thy short-term contracts.

Tha's bound to catch thy Irdeath of stress, death of str ess.

On thy short-term contracts

Tha's bound to catch thy death of stress, death of stress.

Tha's bound to catch thy death of stress.

On thy short-term contracts.1q

On thy short-term contracts.

On thy short-term contracts.

They'll chew thee up and spit thee out, spit thee out.

On thy short-term contracts.

They'll chew thee up and spit thee out, spit thee out.

They'll chew thee up and spit thee out.

On thy short-term contracts.

On thy short-term contracts.

On thy short-term contracts.

But we'll show solidarity (like Jo Grady)

On thy short-term contracts.

But we'll show solidarity (like Jo Grady)

But we'll show solidarity. I'm

On thy short-term contracts.

On thy short-term contracts.

On thy short-term contracts.

Then we shall make thee permanent, permanent.

No more short-term contracts.

Then we shall make thee permanent, permanent.

Then we shall make thee permanent.

No short-term contracts!

No short-term contracts!

No short-term contracts!

9 to 9

Vicky Blake

(An update to Dolly Parton's 9 to 5, for the university sector)

Didn't get t' bed
Fell asleep in the kitchen
How'd I get in-to this condition?
It makes me retch it's time to go on strike

Jump in the shower
Blood starts pumpin'
On campus, markin' starts thumpin'
Folks like us on the job from 9 to 9

Workin' 9 til 9
Ain't even makin' a livin'
Hourly paid I sigh
They're all takin' and I'm givin'

They just use your mind
only care about REF credit
It's enough to drive you
Crazy if you let it

9 to 9
For service and devotion
You would think that I
Should get paid without commotion

Want to af-ford rent
But UC-EA won't seem to let me
I swear sometimes those chumps are
Oooout to get me, ooooh oooooh

They let you dream
Just a watch 'em shatter
You're just a step on the bro-ken ladder
But we got dreams they'll never take away

In the same boat with a lot of our friends
Strikin' today for equal paaay
It's time to turn these
folks ri-iight away

Workin' 9 til 9
Ain't even makin' a livin'
Hourly paid I sigh

They're all takin' and I'm givin'

They just use your mind
only care about TEF credit
It's enough to drive you
Crazy if you let it

9 to 9
Yeah, we strike now 'cause we want to
See a better life
And we think about it, don't you?
Let's just change this game
No matter what they call it
We spend unpaid time
Keeping this place up and runnin'

9 to 9
Ain't even makin' a livin'
Hourly paid I sigh
They're all takin' and I'm givin'

They just use your mind
And you never get the credit
It's enough to drive you
Crazy if you let it

9 to 9
Yeah, we strike now 'cause we want to
See a better life
And we think about it, don't you?
Let's just change this game
No matter what they call it
We spend unpaid time
Keeping this place up and runnin'

9 to 9 (fading out)
Workin 9 to 9
Said working 9 to 9
Working 9 to Niiiiine

Citizen Shanty

(Commoners' Choir)

Well we've come a long way for to find ourselves a home
We've come a long way for to find ourselves a home (x2)
'cos we're citizens of the world

CHORUS:

And you're more than, more than welcome here (x3)

'cos you're citizens of the world

My mother and her mother and her mother before
My mother and her mother and her mother before (×2)
they were citizens of the world

CHORUS

And here's a hand to help you all ashore
Here's a hand to help you all ashore (×2)
'cos you're citizens of the world

CHORUS

Well our nation's roots spread wide and down
Our nation's roots spread wide and down (×2)
'cos we're citizens of the world.

CHORUS

Repeat first verse

CHORUS ×2

The animals went in two by two

Our pay has dropped since 2010
each year, each year.
Our pay has dropped since 2010
each year, each year.
Our pay has dropped since 2010,
our patience wore too thin and then
we all came out on strike
for education's sake.

We work more hours than we're paid
each year, each year.
We work more hours than we're paid
each year, each year.

We work more hours than we're paid
and yet our pay falls anyway.
So we all came out on strike
for education's sake.

Our jobs get more precarious
each year, each year.
Our jobs get more precarious
each year, each year.
Our jobs get more precarious;

Ucea is nefarious.
So we all came out on strike
for education's sake.

Women are paid less than men
each year, each year.
Women are paid less than men.
each year, each year.
Women are paid less than men,
by about a fifth so then
we all came out on strike
for education's sake.

Then our pension scheme gets cut
each year, each year.
Then our pension scheme gets cut
each year, each year.
Then our pension scheme gets cut
USS says 'tough luck', but
we've all come out on strike
for education's sake.

When our students graduate
each year, each year;
when our students graduate
each year, each year;
when our students graduate
they deserve a better fate.
So we've all come out on strike
for education's sake.

Girls Just Want to Have Fun

<https://youtu.be/PIb6AZdTr-A>

We picket in the morning light
UUK says when you gonna live your life right
Oh UUK we're not the fortunate ones
And staff just need our pensions
Oh staff need our pensions

The cuts hurt in the middle of the night
The media yells, "What you gonna do with your life?"
Oh, our students know they're still number one,
But staff – just need our pensions
Oh staff just need to have

That's all we really need

Pensions

When our working days are done
Oh, staff – we need our pensions
Oh, staff just need our pensions

Staff – just need our
Need pensions
Staff need our...

Fat cats take the student fee cash
And hide it away in their corporate stash
We want to be the ones to walk in the sun
Oh staff we need our pensions
Oh staff just need our

That's all we really need
Pensions
When our working days are done
Oh, staff – we need our pensions
Oh, staff just need our pensions

Staff – we need our
Need pensions
Staff need our

[Ad-libs:]

We just need our
We just need our
Staff
Just need our
Staff just need our pensions
We just need our
Staff just need our pensions
Just need our
Just need our
We just need our
We just need our
When our working days are done
Everybody
We just need our...

You are my Sunshine

You are my pension,
My only pension.
You make me happy
When I go grey.
I'm going to need you
When I'm older:
So Please don't take

My pension away.

Twist and Shout

https://youtu.be/YgVWot_xrxE

Well, strike it up comrades, now
(Strike it up comrades)
Strike and shout
(Strike and shout)

Come on, come on, come, come on comrades now
(Come on, comrades)
Come on and strike it on out
(Strike it on out)

Well, strike it on out, comrades
(Strike it on out)
We know we work so good
(Work so good)

We know we got them goin' now
(Got them goin')
Just like we knew we would
(Like we knew we would)

Well, strike it up comrades now
(Strike it up comrades)
Strike and shout
(Strike and shout)

Come on, come on, come, come on comrades now
(Come on comrades)
Come on and strike it on out
(Strike it on out)

Well, we know we strike – UCU
(We strike – UCU)
We know we strike so loud
(Strike so loud)

Come on and strike a little louder now
(Strike a little louder)
'Cos the University's ours, woo
(The University's ours)

Ah, ah, ah, ah, wow, wow, wow
Strike it up comrades, now
(Strike it up, comrades)
Strike and shout

Yes YvvyStrike and shout)
Come on, come on, come, come on comrades now
(Come on, comrades)
Come on and strike it on out
(Strike it on out)

Well, we know we strike – UCU
(We strike – UCU)
We know we strike so loud
(Strike so loud)

Come on and strike a little louder now
(Strike a little louder)
'Cos the University's ours, woo
(The University's ours)

Well, strike it, strike it, strike it, comrades
(Strike it up, comrades)
Strike it, strike it, strike it, comrades, now
(Strike it up, comrades)
Well, strike it, strike it, strike it, comrades now
(Strike it up, comrades)

Woo!
Ah, ah, ah, ah...
Yeah!

We Shall Not Be Moved

<http://civilrightssongs.blogspot.co.uk/2015/02/we-shall-not-be-moved-lyrics-videos-and.html>
<http://www.30days30songs.com/96>

We shall not, we shall not be moved
We shall not, we shall not be moved
Just like a tree that's standing by the water
We shall not be moved
We shall not, we shall not be moved
We shall not, we shall not be moved
The union is behind us,
We shall not be moved
We shall not, we shall not be moved
We shall not, we shall not be moved
We're fighting for education,
We shall not be moved
We shall not, we shall not be moved
We shall not, we shall not be moved
We're fighting for our pensions,
We shall not be moved
We shall not, we shall not be moved
We shall not, we shall not be moved

We're building a mighty union,
We shall not be moved
We shall not, we shall not be moved
We shall not, we shall not be moved
Staff and students together,
We shall not be moved
We shall not, we shall not be moved
We shall not, we shall not be moved
Young and old together,
We shall not be moved

Karma Chameleon

<https://youtu.be/JmcA9LIIXWw>

You're deceivers, UUK, all the way.
We don't listen to your lies. No. We say:

We are staff losing our pensions,
We are staff who really know
How to strike for education.

Negotiate!
Negotiate!

[Chorus:]
Karma Karma Karma Karma Karma Chameleon
Negotiate!

Negotiate!
Teaching would be easy if your funding was like our dream:
Defined and clean,
Defined and clean...

We all hear your wicked words every day.
And you used to be so sweet. We heard you say:

There's no price on education.
When we learn, our future's strong;
When it goes, it's gone forever.
You string along,
You string along...

[Chorus]

Karma Karma Karma Karma Karma Chameleon
Negotiate!

Negotiate!
Teaching would be easy if your funding was like our dream:

Defined and clean,
Defined and clean...

Every day is like survival.
You're our colleagues, not our rivals.
Every day is like survival.
You're our colleagues, not our rivals...

We are staff losing our pensions,
We are staff who really know
How to strike for education.

Negotiate!
Negotiate!

Karma Karma Karma Karma Karma Chameleon
Negotiate!

Negotiate!
Teaching would be easy if your funding was like our dream:
Defined and clean,
Defined and clean...

Karma Karma Karma Karma Karma Chameleon
Negotiate!

Negotiate!
Teaching would be easy if your funding was like our dream:
Defined and clean,
Defined and clean...

Karma Karma Karma Karma Karma Chameleon
Negotiate!

Negotiate!
Teaching would be easy if your funding was like our dream:
Defined and clean,
Defined and clean...

Striking in the rain

I'm striking in the rain
Just striking in the rain
I'm cross about pay gaps
So I'm striking again
I'm laughing at clouds
'Cos my union's here
The sun's in my heart
I have nothing to fear.

I'm striking in the rain
Just striking in the rain
I'm cross about workloads
So I'm striking again
I'm laughing at clouds
'Cos my union's here
The sun's in my heart
I have nothing to fear.

I'm striking in the rain
Just striking in the rain
I'm cross about pensions
So I'm striking again
I'm laughing at clouds
'Cos my union's here
The sun's in my heart
I have nothing to fear.

I'm striking in the rain
Just striking in the rain
I'm cross about low pay
So I'm striking again
I'm laughing at clouds
'Cos my union's here
The sun's in my heart
I have nothing to fear.

I'm striking in the rain
Just striking in the rain
I'm cross about precarity
So I'm striking again
I'm laughing at clouds
'Cos my union's here
The sun's in my heart
I have nothing to fear.

Let the stormy clouds chase.
Everyone from the place
Come on with the rain
I've a smile on my face
I walk down the lane
With a happy refrain
Just striking,
striking in the rain

Alternative Christmas carols (from past years)

In the bleak midwinter

In the bleak midwinter, workloads make us moan

Everlasting meetings, marking weighs a stone,
Piles of emails, more and more, more on more,
In the bleak midwinter, morale is very low.

How can I change this, angry as I am?
If I were the VC, I would pay more staff,
Stop casualisation, end the mental stress:
What can we do together, join UCU!

Rudolph the red nosed reindeer

Rudolph, the union Reindeer
Had a pink and purple nose
She wrote an equal pay claim
To get women what was owed

Some of the other reindeer
Didn't want to go on strike
But Rudolph planned a big campaign
And people knew that she was right

Then one foggy winters eve
Management came to say
Rudolph you're completely right
Let's plan equal pay tonight

Then all the reindeer loved her
And they shouted out with glee
Rudolph the union reindeer
You'll go down in history

White Christmas

I'm dreaming of a fair pay-rise
Just like the ones I used to know
New buildings glisten, will the VC listen
And pay the workers what we're owed
I'm dreaming of a fair pay-rise
With every bouncing cheque I write
May UCEA, one day see the light
And may next year's pay-rise not be rubbish.

We Wish You a Merry Christmas:

We wish we were permanent (x3)
It would make our New Year!

Sad tidings we bring, to staff and their kin
To be treated more fairly, this fight we must win

We don't want zero hours contracts (x3)

They shouldn't be here!

Sad tidings we bring, to staff and their kin
To be treated more fairly, this fight we must win

We all want a decent pay rise (x3)
It would make our New Year!

Sad tidings we bring, to staff and their kin
To be treated more fairly, this fight we must win

We won't go until we've got one (x3)
Fair pay rise this year

Sad tidings we bring, to staff and their kin
To be treated more fairly, this fight we must win

Away in a Manger

These zero hours contracts
Make people so mad
Good money they once earned
Now they have been had
The bosses in their world,
With their sky high pay,
And all the stressed workers
In utter dismay

Silent Night

Zero hours
We have no powers
Future plans
Turning sour
Managers' wages rocket sky high
Isn't it time we all asked why?
Time for action is here
Time for action is here

Jingle Bells

Jingle Bells
Precarity Smells
We really want fair pay
Oh what fun it'd be if we
All had equal pa-aaay!

Jingle bells
Overwork kills
Working all the day,
Oh what fun it'd be to have

Balance 'tween work and pla-aaay!

Crashing through the work
In a thirteen-hour day
Through marking we go
Underpaid all the way

Targets all the time
Making spirits sag
How are we to really shine?
When all bosses do is nag...

Jingle bells
What the hell
Power's gone away
Oh what mess it is to work
No electric for 2 da-aaays

Jingle bells
Time will tell
Contract's ending soon,
Oh what pants it is to apply
For new jobs every da-aaay

Dancing in the the snow
We learned a powerful way
So-li-da-ri-tyyy
Laughing at UUK

They got their maths wrong
Tried to fob us off
But together we are strong
Our pensions we will save

Jingle bells
Union tales
Union all the way,
Oh what fun it is to stand
Together for equal pa-aaay

Jingle bells
Unity spells
Together is the way,
Oh what fun it will be to workh
Here when we have our wa-aaay!

Smashing our turnout
In a ballot for fair pay
Getting out the vote we go
Singing all the way!

Action and campaigns
Making spirits bright
What fun it is to fight and sing
For everything that's right!

Bella Ciao

One morning I woke up
o bella ciao, bella ciao, bella ciao, ciao, ciao,

one morning I woke up
and I found the invader.

Oh partisan take me away
o bella ciao, bella ciao, bella ciao, ciao, ciao,
oh partisan take me away
that I'm feeling like dying

And if I die, as a partisan
o bella ciao, bella ciao, bella ciao, ciao, ciao,
and if I die as a partisan
you must bury me

You will bury me over there, on the mountain
o bella ciao, bella ciao, bella ciao, ciao, ciao,
you will bury me over there on the mountain
under the shadow of a wonderful flower

And all the people passing by
o bella ciao, bella ciao, bella ciao, ciao, ciao,
and all the people passing by
will say "what a wonderful flower!"

And this is the flower of the partisan
o bella ciao, bella ciao, bella ciao, ciao, ciao,
who died for our freedom
and this is the flower of the partisan
dead for our freedom