

# Conference 08 fringe events

## Climate change and the environment

This discussion focused on how trade unions, their members and multinationals can work together to tackle climate change. Hosted by Michael Leahy, speakers included Alan Whitehead MP who spoke on the Government's progress on the issue, Katherine Liddle from Corus who talked about the firm's strategies to improve current processes and introduce 'greener' technology, and the Carbon Trust's David Moore who explained how we all have a role in reducing carbon emissions in our workplace and at home.

For more information, visit [www.corusgroup.com](http://www.corusgroup.com), [www.carbontrust.co.uk](http://www.carbontrust.co.uk) and [www.community-tu.org](http://www.community-tu.org).



## Underpaid and over here: migrant workers in the UK

With migrant workers making up to 10% of the working population, how should the union respond? This was one of the issues raised at this meeting which was chaired by Community's Terry Meakin (standing) who has spearheaded work with migrant workers in Region 6. Speakers included TUC South West's Nigel Costly (left) and Nick Graff from recruitment agency Smart Group who have worked closely with Terry. The discussion also considered how the union could encourage migrant workers to join and how to help them integrate into their new workplaces and communities.

For more information, visit [www.tuc-org.uk](http://www.tuc-org.uk) and [www.community-tu.org](http://www.community-tu.org)



## Unions 21 - What are unions here for?

Hosted by Community's Matt Ball, this session looked at how Unions 21 is asking people across the labour movement to give their opinions on today's trade unions and building unions for the future. Keynote speakers included Denis MacShane MP (right) and Paula Turtle (centre) from USW Canada, and a lively debate ensued, raising questions on recognition, recruitment and retention in the future.

For more information, visit [www.unions21.org.uk](http://www.unions21.org.uk)

## Opportunities and challenges for union organising in the new millennium

One of the most successful responses to the fall in union membership across the UK, the TUC Organising Academy was set up in 1998 and Community was one of the first union's to support it. Chaired by Community's Director of Organising Lee Cash, this session considered how Community can build a stable future by learning from its past organising work and promote best practice in its branches. Speakers included Paul Nowak, TUC National Organiser and Dr Emma Wallis from Communitas.

For more information, visit [www.tuc.org.uk](http://www.tuc.org.uk) and [www.community-tu.org](http://www.community-tu.org)

## Domestic violence

This meeting was an opportunity for our new BUSWE members to share their experiences of the issues that social workers have to deal with on a day-to-day basis. The meeting was chaired by Harry Lyons, former BUSWE General Secretary, speakers included; Narmada Thiranagama, TUC policy officer; Annie Cassie, a former BUSWE member and social worker; and Alex Camm from the NSPCC, who discussed the effects of domestic violence on the victims, their families and the workplace.

## Threat of the BNP – Hope not Hate campaign

Across Yorkshire and the West Midlands, Hope not Hate Yorkshire campaigns against the BNP – working with local and regional Labour parties and unions to present a united labour movement response to the fascist threat. Chaired by Community's Steve Stacey, speakers at this session included Paul Meszaros, Hope not Hate co-ordinator and Pat Keenan Community NEC member.

For more information, visit [www.hopenothate.org.uk](http://www.hopenothate.org.uk)