

Secretary's Report FWB JULY 2020

Does Unite have its knee on the neck of its Black members?

The killing of George Floyd reflects the daily injustices that black people face and that includes the things that take place in Unite the Union and its Faith Workers' branch. My report takes the form of a litany of concern and theological reflection on the work of the committee structure of FWB during the second half of the triennial.

When meetings are chaired in such a way that Points of Order are ruled against before they have been heard:

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When agenda items are not discussed and even deleted by the acting chair following last minute discussions with Unite officials:

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When we are denied faith-based workplace groupings other than Christian:

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When able people from faiths other than Christian are denied membership of our executive committee:

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When the branch secretary is told by the acting chair to rewrite the minutes of the previous meeting before their circulation:

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When branch officers conspire to organise private meetings with unite officials without the branch secretary:

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When clearly defined roles in the Unite Rule book for the branch secretary are usurped by the acting chair with the agreement of Unite officials:

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When Unite officials invite lawyers to agenda setting meetings:

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When the branch secretary has no confidence in Unite officials not to undermine his position and side with other officers within the branch against him:

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When the branch secretary is falsely accused of not consulting the chair when draft agenda has been tabled many weeks in advance:

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When so little has been done to address the equality issues facing the Faith Workers Branch:

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When the branch secretary is Black:

Does Unite have its knee on the neck of its Black members?