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## Email & Post

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Date: 13 August 2020

Dear Mr Di Felice,

### **Closure of Social Work Degree Courses at Ruskin College**

I am writing regarding serious concerns that UNISON members have raised with me following notification yesterday from Ruskin College Oxford that the Social Work Degree course will close from September 2020. Our members have expressed extreme concern and of course feel let down by the institution following the Social Work England's decision not to re-accredit the course.

Within the context of the social issues and impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on our communities, the teaching and education of social work professionals to support those in need is of paramount importance. I would expect that the institution under your leadership will fully investigate why and how a prestige course such as this has not been deemed fit by Social Work England.

Ruskin College's history and traditions go hand in hand with the trade union movement and I hope that you will work with UNISON to do everything in your power to support our members and students affected.

There are several areas UNISON has specific concerns which I am asking that you and the institution concentrate your resources to assist students:

- That Ruskin College works with sector partners to ensure that students who wish to continue their education are found alternative courses in time for September enrolment.
- That all student transcripts are made available to students for those affected to complete transfers to alternative institutions, this is of paramount importance as

UNISON has been informed that the institution is currently providing no assistance in this area.

- That students who request refunds of tuition fees will be paid their refunds in full and in a timely manner.

I would ask that you liaise with Ryan Slaughter, Regional Organiser [r.slaughter@unison.co.uk](mailto:r.slaughter@unison.co.uk) on any updates and developments regarding the issues I have raised.

John Ruskin once said that "*Education is the leading of human souls to what is best, and making what is best out of them*". I hope that you will work with UNISON and ensure that you will do everything in your power to support students and ensure their futures as Social Care Professionals are not effected at such an time where we can ill afford to disappoint and disrupt the professional careers of those wanting to support the most vulnerable in our society.

Yours sincerely

**Steve Torrance**

Regional Secretary  
UNISON South East