

22 June 2023

Dear Professor Naomi Tadmor and the Social History Society Officers,

On behalf of the University of Essex UCU branch, I am writing to express our sincerest gratitude for the unwavering solidarity, support, and generosity demonstrated by the Social History Society (SHS). As the Branch President of Essex UCU, I want to convey our heartfelt appreciation for your recent letter addressed to Professor Anthony Forster, the Vice Chancellor of the University of Essex, in support of our challenge to our university management's punitive pay deductions, as well as the donation made to our hardship fund.

Your open letter to the Vice Chancellor not only amplifies our concerns but also sheds light on the significance of the academic principle that work should be marked, moderated, and externally examined by specialists. Your words of support have resonated deeply with our branch.

We are also deeply grateful for the generous donation made to our hardship fund. This act of solidarity from SHS will directly benefit our members who may be facing financial hardships due to the imposed pay deductions. Your support not only demonstrates SHS's deep commitment to the well-being and welfare of academic staff but also reinforces the importance of collective action in ensuring fair and just working conditions for all.

Once again, your letter and the donation to our hardship fund are deeply appreciated. We thank you for standing with us during these challenging times. The SHS's support means a great deal to our members, and we are truly grateful for your dedication to social justice and fair working conditions within higher education.

With warm regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jak Peake', with a stylized flourish at the end.

**Dr Jak Peake**

Essex UCU Branch President and UCU NEC  
Senior Lecturer  
Department of Literature, Film, and Theatre Studies  
University of Essex