Proud precariat

HOW DO WE understand and respond to the growing pressure on freelance workers? Those questions led London Freelance Branch to hold a high-level event on 11 March. Branch Co-Chair Penny Quinton introduced our mission: to “protect and survive”. Our keynote speaker was Guy Standing, researcher at SOAS and author of The Precariat and The Precariat Charter.

People are being forced into insecure labour, with increasing restrictions on our autonomy about how and when we work. Those of us who choose to be freelance are under pressure. The Trades Union Congress reported 3.2 million in precarious work in 2016.

We’re sold “the gig economy” – which, says Guy, “romanticises it, as though you’re in rock band going from gig to gig”. The reality is that “more and more people are habituated to internalise a life of unstable and insecure work;” their working lives often directed by apps via smartphones. For millions there’s no paid sick leave, no non-wage benefits, only “money wages”. In this environment, “most people don’t know the optimum use of their time – should I network more?”. This, says Guy, creates “immense psychological stress, mental health problems, the precaritised mind.” Sound familiar?

Precarious workers now no longer have “an occupational narrative, an identity you can write on a visa”. Many journalists who interview Guy don’t think they’ll be journalists when they next meet. We’re losing rights-based state benefits too.

Guy related how the word “precarious” has its origin in “obtaining by prayer”: you’re in a dependent situation, you have to be observant.

But the precariat are not all victims. Guy quoted Aristotle: “the insecure man is the free man”; we freelances are at least spared “the grind of a job for 30 years.” There is, he notes, a “progressive part” of the precariat – people who were promised a future, careers, stability, “sold a lottery ticket which is worth less and less”. Before around 2011, precariat folk saw themselves as failures; after the Occupy movement and the Arab Spring, people writing to Guy self-identify as “proud precariat.” Guy had 400 invitations to speak in 37 countries. He now strongly believes the precariat are trying to mobilise.

Old labour union leaders seem to want to convert “atypical workers” into typical workers. Guy feels they “don’t get it,” and until they get it they won’t succeed.

What is to be done? To understand what’s going on, Guy proposes that we think about the emergence of new classes, including the precariat at the beck and call of a shrinking secure “salariat”.

There needs to be a re-distribution, not so much of money but of security and control of our time. And Guy is involved in pilot basic income schemes, where everyone gets some sort of unconditional income from the state or a charitable institution.

These work in Finland, in India, they improve health, welfare, people who have it work more productively, are “more altruistic… they don’t walk around terrified.” In January India’s government adopted a report backing basic income.

Guy says of basic income, “we could do it in India”: the only obstacle is “political.”

The successful meeting also heard from Ursula Huws, professor of labour at the University of Hertfordshire (see page 3), John Toner, NUJ Freelance Organiser, Nicola Hawkins of actors’ union Equity’s Executive Council and Mags Dewhurst, chair of the Independent Workers Union of Great Britain Couriers and Logistics Branch, a bicycle courier who won the right to paid holidays and minimum pay (see page 4).

Guy Standing (standing) and (below) some of the attendees who put questions Photos © David Hoffman
The Rate for the Job

SOME OF the less spectacular rates included in this month’s entries are mitigated by generous travel expenses and a payment for use of the journalist’s home, please note! Thinking about work for a company you’ve not dealt with before? Simply look at the Rate for the Job to find out what companies in similar niches have paid. Then aim higher.

Submit rates online, in confidence, at any time, at www.londonfreelance.org/rates – please give not only the basic rate (e.g. for FBS, First British Serial rights) but extra payments negotiated for extra uses, like the Web. These are shown as (eg) £400 + 100. We now record rates paid in € as well.

Rates marked X are, in the editor’s fallible opinion, below par. Treat all rates as minima, even perhaps the happy ◦ few.

Broadcasting: ARTE TV expert interview, arts feature £500; Sky Arts expert interview, + £150 fee for use of journalist’s home, all in £100 X; Sunday Politics (BBC) expert interview – 2 hours return travel, + £360 expenses, all rights £80.

Photography: Belfast Telegraph, image anywhere in paper on all titles £25 X; picture desk Sunday rate, plus parking, 58p a mile travel, £100-£108 X; Monday-Friday rate, same expenses, £84 XX; Sunday Life, image used anywhere in paper £25 X; picture desk Sunday rate, plus parking, 58p a mile travel, £100-£108 X; Monday to Friday rate, same expenses, £84 XX; Ballymena Advocate, reporter photo shoot, all rights £100; Telegraph, reporter photo shoot, all rights £100-

Jailing journos for “receiving” official secrets?

A PROPOSED “update” of the Official Secrets Act, announced by the Law Commission in mid-February to widespread outcry, could result in long prison sentences for journalists doing their jobs by making disclosures that are in the public interest.

Crucially, the proposed new definition of “espionage” would include receiving as well as passing on “confidential” material, with the definition also expanded to include “sensitive economic data.”

The context for this is the imminent Brexit negotiations, which follow numerous leaks about Brexit, with an investigation underway into a leak of a Government memo about Brexit leaks, which’d be a meta-leak.

At this stage, the plans are still very provisional. The NUJ has already responded to say it “will be robustly defending the rights of its members who face being criminalised for doing their jobs under proposals to update the Official Secrets Act.” An initial Law Commission consultation into the plans closed on 3 April.

A case study of our need for a right of integrity

UK LAW provides that writers and photographers have a “right to object to derogatory treatment of work” – which is defined as treatment that “amounts to distortion or mutilation of the work or is otherwise prejudicial to the honour or reputation of the author.” That “otherwise” means we can – in theory – “object” if our work is used in a context that harms our reputation. There’s no cleaner recent example of that than the experience of photographer Jamie Lorriman, one of whose photos following the attack on Westminster Bridge on 22 March showed a woman in a headscarf, clearly distressed. The photo was used by a notorious far-right troll, to whom the Freelance will not give further publicity, to claim that, as a Muslim, she was unconcerned.

The woman later publicly thanked Jamie for objecting loudly in the press. She asked that the image not be used further. Freelance Industrial Council Chair, the photographer Nick McGowan Lowe, tells the Freelance that “this case demonstrates precisely why photographers and other authors need to be able to object to our work being used in contexts that damage our reputations.”

Freelance Organiser John Toner said: “It’s hard enough to enforce the theoretical right in UK law. The perpetrator seems to be living in the US, where there is no such right. In the internet age we need these rights to be enforceable and enforceable worldwide.”
False ‘balance’ a problem

MEDIA coverage of Brexit and the EU referendum was under scrutiny at the March London Freelance Branch meeting, Chris Frost, chair of the NUJ Ethics Council for the past 40 years, presented its Brexit survey, the result of motions from several Branches. It was not intended to challenge the EU referendum result, but to learn lessons from media coverage of the referendum. It had 366 responses over two months (“not a bad number”). About 30 per cent of responses were from freelances.

Most respondents didn’t feel they were asked to present the referendum in a particular way or be partisan. Pressures in

obliged to focus not on issues but the battles (“usually more exciting than the issues”). Among newspaper titles, the Sun, Mail and Telegraph all came in for criticism from those who took the survey. Some reported “a climate of fear around challenging contributors,” especially at the BBC, while many in newsrooms felt they lacked enough staff to cover the issues in detail. Chris pointed to polls just after the referendum showing that 78 per cent of those polled said they felt “uninformed” about issues around the vote.

LFB’s own Nicholas Jones – a former BBC political correspondent who’s made a study of

broadcasting were of the “wanted good telly” variety – editorial preference for Farage and Johnson over thinktanks or people who know what they’re talking about seemed evident.

The requirement on broadcasting to “give balance” was reported as problematic by a “significant number” of members in broadcasting. They found they were interviewing a lot of people who don’t know the issues on either side, or found they presided over a rather unbalanced debate between a “really good expert versus someone hopeless.”

The “most startling revelations”, said Chris, was that 120 respondents (just under a third) felt aspects of the reporting of the referendum contributed to the post-Brexit rise in racism. Many expressed dismay at the “£350 million a week for the NHS” argument being “constantly presented as true.”

Around a fifth said they’d felt

Brexit coverage – described the Punch and Judy reporting of the EU referendum, adding that the “strict balance between Remain and Leave soundbites” was a “cop-out”. During the referendum, Leaver John Redwood MP responded to Nissan’s announcement of a review of UK production by asking, “Are you saying the Germans won’t want to sell us their cars?” Why didn’t any one ask the car industry! Where were the in-depth pieces about how many jobs were at risk if car manufacturers moved production of new models? Who interviewed finance people to ask how many jobs were at risk in the City of London?

Stories about Brexit “shrinkflation” impacting on Vauxhall at Luton and Ellesmere Port are only starting to emerge now, nine months later – stories “we had a duty to report!” Were broadcasters afraid to seize the initiative, Nicholas asked.

Instead, he noted, we got “lazy vox pops” of people in shopping centres at 11 am, “predominantly the retired and the unemployed” at that time of day. “Where were the 7.30 am vox pops of youger folk on their way to work?”

For some years now, says Nicholas, “political balance” has been such a priority in broadcasting that journalists complain to him, “I can’t tell the story because of ‘too much balance’. The Leave campaign’s Dominic Cummings was an expert in playing the broadcast balance system.

Hugo Dixon, who wrote for Reuters, founded Breakingviews and also the unashamedly pro-EU fact checking organisation In Facts, says the group’s role turned out to be more rebuttal than fact-checking during the EU referendum, including “rebuiting some Remain stuff”.

The “inadequate grilling” was particularly jaw-dropping on the Today programme, where Hugo cited Andrea Leadsom (8 March) and Gisela Stuart (11 April) both unchallenged over £350 million a week for the NHS, and Boris Johnson unchecked over “hundreds of billions a year” to the EU. Why the “lack of challenge!” Because a lot of presenters weren’t on top of the detail themselves, says Hugo.

Hugo added that in Prime Minister David Cameron’s pro-EU campaign, run by Craig Oliver, it was “almost impossible” for spokespeople to get heard if they “didn’t sing from Downing Street hymn-sheets.”

Pro-EU Financial Times editor Lionel Barber managed to get only a few minutes on the BBC Today programme. Even Gordon Brown struggled to get airtime.

There was “lots and lots of bias in print media too. Some five million people in the UK are now getting some of their income via an online platform (Uber, for example,) says Ursula. One in 40 gets half of their income or more from such a platform – this is spreading into mainstream employment. Apps that summon you to work are now used for people in salaried jobs, to log hours, for ratings by customers, performance indicators or other cyerbureaucracy.

How did this come to pass? “Frelances until 1970s were very much protected by closed shop” (they could only work in the sector if they were in the NUJ). The Union in some cases acted as the employment agency. “Attacks on trade unions and the closed shop played a major role in undermining the franchises.”

Then there was the consolidation of companies and “packaging out.” When Channel Four was set up in 1970 and is now with LFB, and Professor of Labour and Globalisation at the University of Hertfordshire. There was, Ursula explained, a “historical exception” in the second half of the 20th century, an unusual period of the “male breadwinner” with labour benefits, welfare and so on, an aspirational model that was not a reality for many.

More secure working conditions came about, says Ursula, largely in the context of the Cold War: “There was a real fear that workers would turn on en masse to Communism… Concessions were made to labour that were rolled back later… The model was never for everybody,” Women, migrants, ethnic minorities and low-skilled workers were excluded from job security’s golden age.

Some five million people in the UK are now getting some of their income via an online platform (Uber, for example,) says Ursula. One in 40 gets half of their income or more from such a platform – this is spreading into mainstream employment. Apps that summon you to work are now used for people in salaried jobs, to log hours, for ratings by customers, performance indicators or other cyerbureaucracy.

How did this come to pass? “Freelances until 1970s were very much protected by closed shop” (they could only work in the sector if they were in the NUJ). The Union in some cases acted as the employment agency. “Attacks on trade unions and the closed shop played a major role in undermining the franchises.”

Then there was the consolidation of companies and “packaging out.” When Channel Four was set up in 1982, everything “was done on spec by freelances who had to pitch.”

‘New normal’ not that new

PRECARIOUSNESS is actually “the normal condition of labour”, said Ursula Huws (pictured, below) at LFB’s recent precarious work conference (see page 1). Ursula was a founder member of NUJ Book Branch in 1970 and is now with LFB, and Professor of Labour and Globalisation at the University of Hertfordshire.

There was, Ursula explained, a “historical exception” in the second half of the 20th century, an unusual period of the “male breadwinner” with labour benefits, welfare and so on, an aspirational model that was not a reality for many.

More secure working conditions came about, says Ursula, largely in the context of the Cold War: “There was a real fear that workers would turn on en masse to Communism… Concessions were made to labour that were rolled back later… The model was never for everybody,” Women, migrants, ethnic minorities and low-skilled workers were excluded from job security’s golden age.

Some five million people in the UK are now getting some of their income via an online platform (Uber, for example,) says Ursula. One in 40 gets half of their income or more from such a platform – this is spreading into mainstream employment. Apps that summon you to work are now used for people in salaried jobs, to log hours, for ratings by customers, performance indicators or other cyerbureaucracy.

How did this come to pass? “Freelances until 1970s were very much protected by closed shop” (they could only work in the sector if they were in the NUJ). The Union in some cases acted as the employment agency. “Attacks on trade unions and the closed shop played a major role in undermining the franchises.”

Then there was the consolidation of companies and “packaging out.” When Channel Four was set up in 1982, everything “was done on spec by freelances who had to pitch.”
The Uber of trade unions

THE UK courier industry is “the ideological manifestation of Tory ideology… supposedly the marketplace will allow the best people to earn lots of money because they’re worthier” or “have more stamina… can cycle faster… or whatever.” But while riders are told “self-employment is freedom…” no one feels liberated when you’re earning less than the National Living Wage.

Mags Dewhurst, bike courier and chair of the Independent Workers of Great Britain (IWGB) Couriers and Logistics Branch, told LBF’s precarious work conference how they won a crowded fund employment Tribunal case against CitySprint. She won holiday pay. She described the IWGB as “small, obnoxious, diverse, low-income union: we use volunteers, I’m one of them…” We’re the Uber of trade unions… we disrupt.” In courier companies, “there’s a pecking order” with a few riders “brown-nosing the managers… they think they’re earning more, they’re not…” We had to get the others, who are pissed off. Got loads of people together, had a meeting, voted to join a union, half the people were like “I don’t want to do it, it’s scary…” We’re going to get fired if we join a union.” But as Mags put it, “We’re going to get fired anyway,” for being late, using the radio wrongly, losing a package. “People have so little to lose that it’s not such a big deal” to take action. “When you are managed by a smart phone and log in and log out, if everyone decides to log out at the same time it’s quite effective!”

Mamma Mia – time for a fight scene

THOSE in the performing arts “have always been in the gig economy,” says Nicola Hawkins, an Executive Committee member in actors’ union Equity. At LBF’s event on precarious work, she described a “low pay and no-pay industry… the fringe getting worse…” 80 per cent are earning less than £20,000 a year” and gave an invigorating presentation of the fight scenes.

An actor, musician, promoter, temp, lifeguard for a bit, Nicola recalls being handed a two-page contract while in the ensemble with Mamma Mia in the West End. Her “first professional job” had been working in a bank, issuing contracts, so she read it—and discovered it referred to book-sized West End Agreement, which included stuff she’d not been told about like being paid to attend a costume fitting.

After getting “angry” about the rights of actor-musicians, in some cases effectively doing three jobs, she was headhunted as an Equity deputy (rep) by activists and “started to understand what collective agreements were.” She set up the “Ensemble” Facebook group for musical performers. Thanks to her efforts and colleagues’,175 productions have now signed up to Equity’s “fringe contracts”, meaning hundreds of millions more in wages. There’s been some “good negotiation”, with a “12 per cent pay rise for our members on tour in the next few months”. Equity has grown by a thousand members a year to its current 40,000, helped by “nurturing student and graduate members”.

When Equity knock on the door, “disorganised employers know something is wrong.” Pointing out that they don’t want to go to court is usually enough to get them to say, “OK.” Employers now believe her when she threatens a walk-out.

It’s time to legislate for decent employment rights for all

NUJ FREELANCEOrganiser John Toner, speaking at the LBF’s precarious work conference, said that as a trade union official he’d “always worked for the precarious, only we just call them freelances.” Freelance journalism has “existed since journalism began.” Sunday papers would never have existed without casuals,” many of them defined by that oxy-moron “regular casuals.”

But in the 16 years that John’s been Freelance Organiser, “I’ve seen the number of queries about employment status go from a trickle… to almost every day.” We’re increasingly witnessing “false freelancing”, where it can be shown that someone has the legal status of “worker” – they can demonstrate mutuality of obligation, and a degree of control and supervision. John gave examples of cases he has taken to court.

One newspaper columnist who had no contract for 10 years was let go. She was horrified to find she had no employment rights, no redundancy entitlement.

Another freelance worked for the Telegraph every Saturday for many years, also with no contract. At the start of the year he was expected to write into the Telegraph diary the highlights he wouldn’t be there, when he planned to be on holiday. He was also subject to supervision. An Employment Tribunal ruled he was an employee not just a “worker” and he got pension rights.

A racing reporter showed John his letter of engagement, which directed him to go to races on Mondays-Thursdays, for which “we’ll pay you X, Fridays, go to the racecourse, write a report and a preview for Saturday’s race, we’ll pay you Y” As he had no supervision while at the races, our correspondent was “ruled not an employee but a ‘worker’… he got years of holiday pay, thousands.”

It is hard to prove in such cases that management are obliged to pay freelances and that they’re obliged to turn up. John has taken cases where colleagues have been sitting next to each other doing exactly the same work for ten years, yet one is ruled an “employee” and the other isn’t.

In 2005, the International Federation of Journalists adopted a Freelance Charter. Its Clause 5 states: “a fake or forced freelance who is economically dependent should be treated as an employee… with rights.” The European Parliament has adopted a draft of the European Pillar of Social Rights, which addresses these issues – sadly, just as the UK prepares to leave the EU.

The UK government is holding an inquiry into the self-employed, while the TUC has adopted a resolution declaring that “the rules of employment status should be modernised… the same decent floor of employment rights should be enjoyed by the self-employed too.”

© Matt Salusbury
A life in crime (reporting)

DUNCAN CAMPBELL, a strong supporter of the Union, came to the February London Freelance Branch meeting to talk about his life in crime reporting. He told us it was a pleasure to be back in the Branch he first joined in the 1970s.

He had recently been at a memorial service for crime reporter Jimmy Nicholson – whose farewell marked the end of a “golden age” of crime reporting – at the Maggie and Simon public house opposite the Old Bailey. In the 19th century, court reporter Charles Dickens covered public hangings outside Newgate prison that could be viewed from the upstairs room at the Maggie and Stump. Crime reporting has an extremely distinguished lineage.

In those days, John Stevens of the Standard met detectives in a hotel off Grosvenor Square on Thursday nights with a pack of tenners. Newspapers got information. But when consumables were badly “recycling” the drug from busts. The Guardian reported that eight officers had been moved from Stoke Newington to eight different stations. It didn’t name them, and said it was not suggesting that any were involved in the corruption. Just before the then three-year limit for defamation lawsuits (it’s now a year) writs arrived from solicitors to the Police Federation, who’d won all of a run of 95 separate actions to defend members’ reputations. But Guardian editor Alan Rusbridger decided the Stoke Newington story was true and must be defended. He hired the “very tough” George Carman QC, who advised: always insist on a jury; and never to make assumptions: “I’ve never made miscarriages of justice.”

There were crimes to report on, too. Someone’s head was cut off, left in a gents’ in Islington and dumped the torso in the Thames. Duncan was sure that the resulting “Torso trial” was a miscarriage of justice.

For the Guardian Duncan reported on corruption at Stoke Newington police station in the 1990s. Police were allegedly “recycling” the drug from busts. The Guardian reported that eight officers had been moved from Stoke Newington to eight different stations. It didn’t name them, and said it was not suggesting that any were involved in the corruption. Just before the then three-year limit for defamation lawsuits (it’s now a year) writs arrived from solicitors to the Police Federation, who’d won all of a run of 95 separate actions to defend members’ reputations. But Guardian editor Alan Rusbridger decided the Stoke Newington story was true and must be defended. He hired the “very tough” George Carman QC, who advised: always insist on a jury; and never to make assumptions: “I’ve never made miscarriages of justice.”

As a result of the phone-hacking scandal it’s much harder to get information from police. News International, as then, was “dubbed in all the confidential email and phone contacts” to avoid corporate prosecution. They acted as “classic grasses” and “poisoned the well” of confidential information. Now police careers are in danger if they’re seen just having a drink with a journalist.

“Always protect your sources.” You will get fantastic support from the NUJ. “One great thing about being my age,” Duncan said, “is that most of my sources don’t know being my age,” Duncan said, “is that most of my sources don’t know how use email. Brian Reader (jailed for the Hatton Garden heist) didn’t have a mobile phone – his co-conspirators would phone his son.”

See a much longer report at www.londonfreelance.org/ fl/1703dunc.html

Our Branch at Women’s TUC

PROTECTING the rights of EU nationals and ensuring continued progress in equalities legislation in the UK post-Brexit were top of the agenda for trades unionists at the TUC Women’s Conference 2017. For freelance and precarious workers at the event in London on 8-10 March there was recognition of the increasing pressures we face.

Raising her concerns about a lack of government support for women’s work issues, the Shadow Secretary of State for Women and Equalities, Sarah Champion MP, highlighted self-employment and zero hours contracts as a major challenge: “We know the labour market is becoming increasingly precariously,” she told the 300 delegates from 31 unions. “There are now nearly 1 million people on zero hours contracts and we cannot fool ourselves into thinking that women who are self-employed are having their rights protected.”

Motions highlighted the lack of maternity leave, or other rights enjoyed by employed workers, such as paid time off to attend antenatal appointments, for the self-employed. “The four-strong NUJ delegation – London Freelance Branch members Maureen Paton and Magda Ibrahim, with Disabled Members Council chair Ann Galpin and NUJ Norfolk’s Cath Saunt – tabled a motion to tackle cyber abuse and its toll on women journalists. Cath Saunt told conference: “Women journalists and bloggers, generally strong women’s voices online, are especially prone to the vilest of words and images.”

The NUJ’s delegation at the Women’s TUC Conference. Left to right: Magda Ibrahim; Cath Saunt; Anita Halpin (former NUJ president); Ann Galpin and Maureen Paton.

© Natasha Morris

© Mike Holderness

See a much longer report at www.londonfreelance.org/fl/1703dunc.html

© Magda Ibrahim

A longer report is online

Self-employed creative survey

The Creative Industries Federation (which lobbies government on behalf of “arts, creative industries and cultural education”) has launched a survey for “self-employed creatives” that explicitly includes freelancers. Most LFB members would tick the survey’s “publishing” sector box. What’s striking about the survey is how few tick-boxes there are, and how much space it has for free text, which in the Freelance’s humble opinion makes it well worth responding to. It ends by soliciting your help being a case study. It’s at www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/N9YYDW6 and see also the TUC “insecure work” survey at www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/TellTheTUC.

© Hazel Dunlop

© Natasha Morris

© Natasha Morris
VACANCIES ON NUJ COUNCILS

THERE ARE vacant seats on NUJ Councils that meet periodically to debate union policy in its various sectors. Vacancies are open to freelance members who work in particular industries, who represent a particular geographical region or belong to a specific demographic.

Of interest to LFB members is the Freelance Industrial Council (www.londonfreelance.org/fic) which seeks a member from East Anglia. The New Media Council (www.nuj.org.uk/work/employers/new-media) is looking for a South East member. The Photographers Council (www.nuj.org.uk/work/photographers) has a vacant London seat and one for the South East, as does the PR Industrial Council. The Union’s NEC has vacancies for a member working in books and two based in South East England. You need to be recognised as working in the sector for the Industrial Council for which you want to stand. Contact the NUJ Membership Department (membership@nuj.org.uk) to tell them you wish to be recorded as being in that sector or demographic and also as a freelance. For South East England geographical seats your postcode needs to be outside London.

Candidates need to have nomination forms signed by an NUJ Branch. LFB members can contact its Secretary (phil.scott.47@gmail.com) to tell them you wish to be recorded as being in that sector or demographic and also as a freelance. For South East England geographical seats your postcode needs to be outside London.

Candidates need to have nomination forms signed by an NUJ Branch. To stand. Contact the NUJ Membership Department (membership@nuj.org.uk) to tell them you wish to be recorded as being in that sector or demographic and also as a freelance. For South East England geographical seats your postcode needs to be outside London.

Members who’ve recently joined London Freelance Branch are invited to meet other people new to the Branch, as well as some members with more experience of freelance journalism.

The next LFB New Members Meeting is at the Camera Café, Museum Street, London WC1A 1LY (nearest Tube Russell Square or Holborn.) It’s on Thursday 27 April from 6pm. These meetings take place there on the last Thursday of every third month.

LFB COMMITTEE

Your Branch needs you!

There are vacancies on London Freelance Branch Committee for a vice-chair to stand in for the Branch’s two chairpersons when needed, and for a member without portfolio to take on jobs as they arise. For more detail on the responsibilities of the various Committee posts, and on how to put yourself forward for election, see www.londonfreelance.org/lfb/jobs.html

NEW MEMBERS

London Freelance Branch has passed a motion condemning the imprisonment of Ivory Coast journalist Hamadou Ziao by the Ivorian authorities. Ziao – among many journalists arrested over coverage of army mutinies – was reportedly held in the Ivorian special forces camp at Agban for two days in February, accused of placing “fake or bad news” in the Ivorian newspaper Tinter. Ziao went on trial without a lawyer before being released. LFB has asked the NUJ’s National Executive Council to urge the International Federation of Journalists to make representations to remind Ivorian President Alhassane Dramane Ouattara’s government to respect press freedom.

UNCATEGORISED ADS

UNCLASSIFIED ADS

FREELANCE UNCLASSIFIEDS are FREE to members for non-commercial purposes. To non-members and for commercial purposes, £10 for this much. Acceptance is at the editors’ whim; appearance does not imply endorsement. Comments on an advertiser? Tell us. Submit by email to unclassified@londonfreelance.org

LEGAL EDITING/PROOFREADING. At sea with legal material and journalist. Wondering when the ECJ became the CJEU or which ‘European Court’ is featured! Freelance legal editor with 20 years’ experience of copy-editing, proofreading and researching legal texts and law reports is here to help. Reasonable rates and fast-turnaround. Contact David dhn@step.net

WANT TO TRY YOUR HAND at writing fiction? Courses at The Groucho Club in Soho will inspire you, teach you the tricks of the trade and help you develop and polish your work. Our tutors are mainstream published authors. Our next term starts in January – for details go to www.writingcourses.org.uk

BLOGGING COOPERATION: Stuart Forster, the travel journalist and blogger behind Go Eat Do (www.geoeatdo.com) is looking for fellow bloggers to build traffic and reach. Contact stuart.forster@gmail.com

CONTACTS

Freelance office
John Toner / Pamela Morton 020 7843 3703
email freelanceoffice@nuj.org.uk
post 72 Acton Street, London W3 9NB

Legal helpline for NUJ members in emergency only:
England and Wales 0800 587 7530
Scotland 0800 085 3425

Freelance editors
Mike Holderness
Matt Salisbury
email freelanceeditor@londonfreelance.org
Follow us on Twitter www.twitter.com/NUJ_LFB

© 2017 NUJ & authors; moral rights asserted.