Speech on Arts Education
TUC Congress 2025
Loraine Monk - Artists' Union England, supporting Motion 51

Sadly, arts provision in state schools and colleges continues to shrink as a result of the pressure to teach science and technology subjects while budgets get cut.

Artists' Union England continues to campaign for arts provision in all areas of education from nursery to university and and we congratulate The NEU for initiating the Arts and Minds Campaign.

In the UK, however, the class system is still strong; the public school system so pervasive in its influence in every aspect of the arts in the uk.

Like many unions, we expected the election of a Labour government would result in a change - a shift in provision that would reverse the destruction of the conservative years.

However, we are still waiting.

We still have unequal provision.
One subject for the wealthy and one for the rest.
Public schools know the worth of music, dance, and theatre.
They know how important visual arts are. Why else does Eton have three theatres and numerous art studios? It has three museums, galleries, and a library just to house its own art collection.
The Arts are one of the joys of life and the wealthy know that. That's why public schools are still teaching a full range of arts subjects.

The arts inspire hope and dreams. We want that for every child, for every adult. Arts education available for everyone - a door of opportunity, open for all.

This Labour government needs to seize its opportunity to change peoples lives for the better. There is no better way to do that than to ensure everyone has the chance to learn, to be inspired.

Conference, giving hope and dreams - that's a good way for us to begin to make real change.