I am on strike. The background to this is summed up by these points: In higher education…

* women are paid on average 15.1% less than men
* the disability pay gap is 8.7%
* black academic staff earn 12-13% less than white colleagues of the same gender and experience
* salaries have fallen against inflation by over 20% since 2009.
* academic staff work over 50 hours during a typical week.
* Over 100,000 staff are employed on fixed-term contracts, and a further 70,000 are employed on other casual contracts.

The industrial action is intended to force the employers who run higher education to improve the situation in four specific areas:

* Inequality
* Casualization
* Workload
* Salaries

While I am on strike, I will not be checking or sending emails. I will read your message when I return to work after the strike action and will respond in due course.