

**UCU Statement on Links between Senator George J. Mitchell and Queen's University
Belfast – 2nd February 2026**

We welcome the decision of Queen's University Belfast to remove Senator George J. Mitchell's name from the Institute for Global Peace, Security and Justice. In 2019, Mitchell was named in court documents for having had sex with Virginia Giuffre, a victim trafficked by the sex offender and paedophile Jeffrey Epstein. Mitchell denied these allegations and maintained also that he had ceased contact with Epstein following the latter's conviction in 2008. However, new information recently released by the US Department of Justice suggests a continued relationship between the two men until at least 2013. The values of our trade union movement are justice, equality, and fairness, which we expect to be upheld by our university and those who publicly represent it. It is evident that Senator George J. Mitchell fails to meet these standards, and so all links must be removed.