

WEA joins 'Give It Back George!'

Submitted by: Workers' Educational Association (WEA London)

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The WEA (Workers' Educational Association (<http://www.wea.org.uk>)) has today signed up to NCVO's (the National Council for Voluntary Organisations') new campaign, 'Give It Back George' (<http://www.wea.org.uk/news/giveitback.aspx>).

Charities stand to lose out after the Government's March budget announcement indicating that it intends to cap tax relief on charitable giving, including Gift Aid.

Ruth Spellman, new Chief Executive at the WEA (<http://www.wea.org.uk/News/Ruth-Spellman-to-be-Chief-Executive-of-the-WEA.aspx>), said today:

'As the UK's leading voluntary-sector provider of adult education and community learning we're adding our voice to the 'Give it Back' campaign, to show the strength of feeling against any proposals that may reduce charitable giving. We agree that the cap will operate as a disincentive to existing and new donors to all charities and want to encourage the Government to reconsider their stance.'

Gifts of £200,000 or more will be subject to the new rules which charity leaders fear may act as a disincentive to people wishing to donate large sums of money to charities and trusts. Under the old rules, tax-relief on charitable gifts meant donors would have the satisfaction of seeing the value of their donation to their chosen charity increased by up to 40%.

Ends

Notes to Editors

For further information, interviews and case studies contact Maria Flemmer on mflemmer@wea.org.uk or 07919 538368 out of hours.

The Workers' Educational Association (www.wea.org.uk) is an educational charity and the largest voluntary sector provider of adult education in Britain, running courses for over 64,000 people each year. It is a registered charity and operates with the active support of more than 2,000 volunteers. Its major funder in England is the Skills Funding Agency.

The WEA operates in all nine English Regions and in Scotland. It employs over 3,000 part-time tutors, delivering more than 12,000 courses per year, often in partnership with local community groups and organisations. Founded in 1903, the WEA believes that education is life-long and should continue beyond school, college and university in order to help people develop their full human potential in society.

Registered office: Workers' Educational Association, 4 Luke Street, London, EC2A 4XW. Registered charity number: 1112775. Company limited by guarantee in England and Wales no: 2806910. www.wea.org.uk