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CONGRESS

MANCHESTER 21-22 JUNE 2019

In partnership with  
The **co-operative** bank

# BUILDING CO-OPERATIVE PLACES

#CoopCongress



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# CAN UNIONS PLAY A ROLE AT THE CENTRE OF CO-OPS?

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# SHARED ROOTS AND VALUES

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▶ A shared belief that:

“... full individual development can take place only in association with others. As an individual, one is limited in what one can try to do, what one can achieve. Through joint action and mutual responsibility, one can achieve more, especially by increasing one’s collective influence in the market and before government”

Ian McPherson, Background Paper on the Co-operative Statement of Identity, ICA, Geneva, 1995

# INVISIBILITY OF CO-OPERATIVES IN PUBLIC DISCOURSE?

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- ▶ Business education in universities dominated by the for profit model
- ▶ Creating space for alternative modes of organising
- ▶ University of Bristol: Inclusive Economy initiative bringing social justice and community activism to the fore

# TOWARDS A CO-OPERATIVE UNIVERSITY AND CO-OPERATIVE HIGHER EDUCATION

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- ▶ No blueprint
- ▶ Non-hierarchical
- ▶ Union organised
- ▶ Diverse, fluid, participatory, disruptive and federated
- ▶ Relevant, high quality, characterised by vibrant critical thinking
- ▶ Equal weight given to co-operative governance, pedagogy, alternative funding and decent work
- ▶ Intersects with the pioneering, innovative work and thinking going on elsewhere

Source: Cilla Ross, VP Co-operative College

