

In regards to the recent accusations.

I wish to clarify that, as far I'm aware, it stems from one incident, of which I am now writing a full account.

In September 2018 I was elected the Chair of Communications of Game Workers Unite International. That gave me a few jobs – liaise with the Committee as to what we post on our social media, organise and chair bi-weekly meetings and coordinate press responses with our worldwide GWU chapters.

Every second Sunday at 10pm I'd chair Communications Committee meetings where we discuss the agenda for the next two weeks, people come with suggestions, I do too, we discuss, some go ahead, some get redrafted etc.

There was one particular voice meeting like this on 11th of August where Sisi suggested we make a thread on white supremacy. I, in three sentences, that weren't particularly articulate, I fully admit that, said something along the lines of 'well, we need to think how to do this broadly, don't want to appear very America-based, how would a worker in like South Korea or Lithuania or whatnot see this, maybe we should leave it to local chapters and we'd share those'. I thought we'd be talking further about this, but Sisi swiftly exited the meeting. I immediately felt bad that perhaps I sounded dismissive, (I was trying to be utilitarian in the meeting, but it didn't come out well, definitely), so I ended the meeting in order to message Sisi, after apologising to the other person in the meeting. (The other person in the meeting confirmed in November that the above is how it all happened.) Straight away I sent the below to Sisi:

*"Hey, just wanted to apologise for my laziness with words perhaps there in the meeting. It's like 11pm where I am and I was trying to explain wide concepts in like three sentences, which wasn't very helpful. My point, which I didn't explain well at all, is not that we should not talk about wider politics, but we should be touching on them worldwide, per say. For instance, here I'm copy + pasting what I wrote to Emma re: that particular post*

*"My concern is that we're focussing, once again, on 'Western' stuff. Like, there are many different intersecting fascisms across the global games industry. Many different countries pushing their national agenda etc. I'd say we either don't go there or report all of them, or leave it to local chapters. And I say this as a huge antifa babe etc! It's just cements us as hugely Europe / North America etc I mean it obvs plays to our current audience, but I'd be more interested in expanding it"*

*My personal view is that we should be focussing much more on the modes of production of hardware in the Global South for instance, 'cause that's the elephant in*

*the room with all of our organising, and we don't talk abt it at all enough. It's tricky ofc though, as so little info comes out from there.*

*Re: local chapters, I think it's just the nature of the beast that sometimes we will fall out of local organising (I've also stopped my involvement w/ GWU UK, mostly due to political differences too (to do w/ antifascism btw, incidentally)), but at the end of the day it helps workers and that's really important, I want more countries have that. (31/05/2020 clarification – the above paragraph is to do with IWGB rather than actual GWU UK people) Anyhow, again, my apologies I didn't express myseff correctly in the meeting, I apologised to Emily too. My tenure ends in September and perhaps the new face can adopt a new approach. I can see how it can grow numbers too, but mostly in Western Europe / North America. At which point we might as well drop the 'International' bit."*

For privacy reasons, I'm not copy+pasting their response, but it was three lines dismissing the above approach. My response:

*"As expressed above, my view is that the org's antifascism needs to be Internationalist or left to broader local chapters. The focus on local chapters is what I thought was the point of the org, again, that can / is under constant review and will no-doubt evolve, especially when more of them become stronger. The org can then be a much more powerful arbiter, no doubt.*

*I would like to hope the misunderstanding here comes not due to actual political differences, but because of mediums communicated in 🌻. I ask for your trust that my sole focus is broadening the worldwide appeal to the org rather than score social capital within my own cushy, (mostly) white, liberal games industry etc, that'd be hella easy. Again, Comms committee members are my bosses and whatever people think should be the messaging at the end of the day, I'll just implement your communal decisions."*

Sisi never responded, this theme was brought up in the next meeting and the thread on white supremacy that Sisi proposed was created and posted on GWU International channels. I was in Tatarstan at the time visiting my relatives and have arranged for someone else to chair that meeting months in advance. I got back from my trip and myself posted the proposed thread, no questions asked. It was a good thread! Since it got posted and I was the one doing the posting, I genuinely thought Sisi's concerns were addressed.

Three months later in late November Sisi left the org citing the above as one of the reasons why. I explained myself with a statement very similar to the above, the moderators spoke to both me and Sisi and were satisfied that I did not violate our policies.

At that point I was hoping to pass on the baton to a new Chair back in September, but there were not enough people on the ballot for an election and I was asked to stay. By that time, GWU has already entered a lull, and by today there are hardly any committees functioning, as the org is transitioning to a new, more sustainable structure.

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I truly believed that this specific matter was resolved. I said three clumsy sentences in a meeting that were not closing down the discussion, but just trying to rethink it, immediately felt bad about it, addressed it and apologised to Sisi straight away. I asked for good faith that it was essentially a miscommunication and I was ready to post any thread that eventually got made. I would never counter any anti-racist messages coming from GWU International.

As of the past couple of months, I have not worked on the Comms Committee in any structural way and will not be going back to my duties. Dozens of incredible volunteers have put thousands of hours to give birth to an incredible global union movement, often missing out on employment opportunities, often whilst still working in service industries and I'm devastated that my unfortunate choice of words has led to this all now being put in jeopardy.

MD