**2022 TUC Black Workers’ Conference**

**Nominations**

Section A

*14 places available: 14 nominations received*

Okoro Akinyemi Teacher

NASUWT

My time in NASUWT has developed my philosophy of valuing each colleague as an individual, as well as part of a community. I have been a member of NASUWT since 2014 and I currently work as Biochemistry Lecturer in Peterborough College. I have been a member of the Union’s Black Members’ Advisory Committee since 2018. I am also the currently President of NASUWT Peterborough Local Association. I believe my experience in representing teachers will be a useful rudiment in the TUC.

I have also been working voluntarily for an organisation advocating for the right of the less privileged ones since 2009. My role as a representative of the Black Members’ advisory committee has provided me with the skills for motivating and advocating for the better treatment of Black teachers.

These are skills I can bring to the work of the TUC Race Relations Committee.

Dalbir Dhillon Conductor Northern Trains

RMT

Dalbir Dhillon works for Northern Trains as a Conductor.

He has been an RMT member for over 10 years and has become increasingly involved in its activities particularly with the Black and Ethnic Minority Members Committee and Conferences. He is Assistant Branch Secretary at Manchester Victoria, a local rep and has also attended the union’s AGM.

Dalbir has now stepped up from Vice-Chair to Chair the RMT’s Black & Ethnic Minority Members Advisory Committee and Conference.

He knows what it is like at the front line of customer service and trade union activism, including being racially abused on a picket line. Dalbir would like to take this opportunity to use his experience and represent the union on the TUC Race Relations Committee.

Floyd Doyle Train Driver

ASLEF

I have been an ASLEF member for 28 year and for many of these I was the national chair of the ASLEF Black and Minority Ethnic Representative Committee dealing with racial issues within the railway industry.

I have attended the TUC Black Workers Conference for 15 years; have the honour of chairing the 2017 conference. I’ve been a member of the TUC Race Relations Committee for over 11 years attending every meeting to date where I have been willing to be involved, attending Parliament and protests to support BAME and union issues.

I have also attended the Labour East Conference for the last 7 years networking with MP’s and I am a member of the Cambridge Trades Council.

Denise Henry Teacher

NEU

NEU Black Executive Seat Holder

Primary Teacher for over 20 years

School Rep and Equality Branch Officer since 2008

Co- founder of the NEU Black LGBT+ network in 2017

Black educators conference steering committee member for many conferences.

Network leader of the NEU Black LGBT+ network (which won the award for most inspiring intersectionality network in 2019 at the LGBT+ conference)

Co- founder of the NEU South –East London Black network and other Black educators-led organisations.

Creator of Lambeth NEU anti – racist Framework bank of resources.  
Attended NUT and NEU National conference since 2008 as delegate- speaking and writing motions.

Organiser for various equalities union events and campaigns in schools, district and regional.

NEU Strategy committee member: Policy Research & Campaigns Committee

Zita Holbourne Civil Servant

PCS

I am a current member of the TUC Race Relations Committee and National Vice President of PCS.

I campaign for equality, rights and justice through trade union and community activism and am co-founder and National Chair of Black Activists Rising Against Cuts (BARAC) UK and a founding member of BAME Lawyers for Justice and Citizenship Is a Right Coalition.

I have played a leading role campaigning for Windrush and related justice and against forced deportations.

I'm an experienced negotiator (specialising in equality), campaigner and organiser with over 20 years’ experience representing members specialising in race and other discrimination cases.   
I have played a leading role in many campaigns against racism. I coordinate and curate the TUC Roots Culture Identity art exhibition.

I campaign for equality and human rights globally. Since 2015 I've co-ordinated regular humanitarian aid solidarity missions for our sisters/brothers, forced to flee war, poverty, climate change and persecution.

Dawn Hope Actor

Equity

Having had the privilege of serving on Equity's Executive Council 2018-20 I am really honoured to be voted on again, to continue to speak into these crucial 'Four Pillars' to help our members return to work. In particular supporting our Culturally Diverse members, having their voices up front and centre, and fighting the racism and exclusion that blights their lives across the entertainment industry.

Never has there been a more important time to step up and serve our members. As we all circumvent our way through a new way of telling our stories I believe we will, as many more streaming and new media platforms spring up and finding interesting ways of profiling our work.

I want to be in those discussions, making sure new and present employer and engagers uphold all hard-won working standards, and the new ones that will arise, whilst respecting all practitioners' contributions and rewarding a true living wage.

Christopher Knight Prison Officer

Community

A union member in the Justice Sector representing my Sector Committee, an NEC member, attending Community Biennial Conference and TUC Black Workers Conference.

I believe that we are stronger when we collectively come together; I am committed to supporting an inclusive and diverse union movement that is able to tackle the inequalities that exist, wherever it exists in the workplace or society, we need a strong voice for black members, raising awareness of the issues faced, to listen/engage with members across all sectors and welcome the challenges before me in helping shape structures to support members to be heard, developing campaigns that actively seek ways to increase members involvement, campaigns addressing issues directly affecting pay, progression, health services, education wherever inequalities exist.

Seeking your support to challenge inequality, to raise awareness and above all do what the union movement does best, stand together, Stand strong.

Maureen Loxley MBE Shop worker recently retired

USDAW

I have worked in the retail sector for most of my life. I currently work the early shift in a large supermarket. Since the start of the pandemic retail workers have been in jobs and workplaces that have heightened our risk of exposure to the virus but also to abuse and harassment and yet retail workers are amongst the lowest paid in the economy.

Black workers are in jobs that put them at even greater risk such as security and acting as marshals policing social distancing and entry to/exit from stores. The retail sector, already in crisis, faces an uncertain future with Black workers likely to be at the sharp end of redundancies and reorganisations.

If re-elected to the Committee I will continue to do all I can to raise the issues that affect workers, particularly Black workers, in the retail sector and ensure our voice is heard.

Amit Malde Firefighter

FBU

I am a firefighter and official for the Fire Brigades Union. A life-long Londoner of Indian heritage (via east Africa), I have been in the service for a decade and currently hold both regional and national positions within the Black and Minority Members section of the union. My primary aim within the fire service is to help achieve the target of having a service that better represents demographically the communities it serves.

I have collaborated with Stand Up to Racism and have spoken at numerous events on various topics related to race relations including the Black Lives Matter movement and the aftermath of the George Floyd murder. I have a particular interest in the Grunwick dispute due to a shared heritage and location. I am a member of my local TUC group and active in race relations and socialist campaigns and groups in the region.

James Minto Senior Practitioner Social Worker

UNISON

I have worked for Local Government for over 25 years in Residential Care Services as a Senior Practitioner. I am Branch Chair of Nottinghamshire County Branch, Deputy Regional Convenor East Midlands Region. A member of Notts County Council Corporate Equality Committee.

The Sewell reports conclusions failed to reflect the evidence and undermined efforts to tackle racism and discrimination in the UK.

It has been my duty to actively advocate for Black Workers in the fight against discriminatory and racist acts in employment. In Notts County Branch I was involved in producing a Freedom from Racism Activist Handbook which has been made accessible to all members and employers.

I continue to have conversations around Racism in the workplace no matter how difficult, encouraging the buy in of Employers to acknowledge and accept there is an issue, to be accountable to build supportive cultures of respect where racism does not go unchallenged.

Brahama Mohanty Finance/Consulting/Self-Employed

GMB

Beyond my role in finance and consulting, I am involved in political campaigning both locally and nationally through numerous roles. I have a keen interest in advocating BAME matters, promoting access on behalf of, and addressing issues affecting the BAME community. This has underlined my role as a member of the committees of both GMB Race and Ability, in working with my GMB brothers and sisters to help promote events such as the well-attended Black History Month event at City Hall, celebrating the vast and enriching impact the Afro-Caribbean and other BAME communities have had on British life. At a time when race-issues persist in both everyday society, the political sphere and workplace, the trade union movement through the TUC Race Relations Committee, is the best placed force to tackle these issues head on, to ensure nobody from an ethnic-minority background is side-lined and can reach their full potential.

Harish Patel National Officer for Equalities

Unite the Union

I have been involved in the trade union movement since 1978 and a current member of the TUC Race Relations Committee.

I am UNITE’s National Officer for Equalities, responsible for our Black and Asian Ethnic Minorities (BAEM) members in the public, private and voluntary sectors. I also look after the national Disabled and LGBT+ members.

I advise and assist Unite’s officers/representatives and national/regional BAEM Committees on all areas of race equality. These include developing strategies and positive actions to ensure that BAEM membership issues, such as tackling bullying & harassment; career progression for BAEM workers in the workplace and in the community are highlighted and dealt with. I encourage the BAEM membership to be active nationally and internationally as well as have a political voice within the union.

I regularly attend the TUC Black Workers Conference as a delegate and am a member of the Labour Party and BAME Labour.

Faisal Qureshi Film producer and writer

Prospect

Faisal is chair of BECTU's Black Members Committee and sits on Prospect's NEC. He has been involved in increasing diversity in the creative sector for 20+ years including our Theatre and Commercial diversity action plan. He worked the BAFTA/Emmy award winning Leaving Neverland and the BAFTA winning comedy, Four Lions.

Amarjite Singh Operational Postal Grade (OPG)

CWU

Amarjite has worked for Royal Mail for over 34 years and been active in the CWU since 1999. He is a respected trade unionist and anti-racism campaigner.

Amarjite has come from the work floor, representing rank-and-file members, and has always played an active role. He has been Branch Secretary for the CWU since 2007 to date and recently been elected to CWU National Executive Committee 2021.

Amarjite has also been active within the following organisations:

TUC / Race Relation Committee Member 2012 to 2015

Chair of the CWU National Race Advisory Committee 2012 to 2016

Treasurer for Cardiff Trades Council 2006 to 2017

TUC/JCC for Wales 2010/ 2015

Wales TUC Vice President 2011/2012 Wales TUC President 2012/2013

WTUC Executive/General Member 2010 to 2015 & 2021 to date

European Economic Social Committee 2015 to 2020 and is a Labour Party Member from 2000.

Section B

*4 places available: 5 nominations received*

Elizabeth Cameron Equality Diversity and Inclusion Lead

UNISON

An Anti-racism champion, Public Speaker and Ambassador for Show Racism the Red Card, she highlights the intersectional experience of race & class, women, LGBT+ and disability inequality. Alongside 25 years active involvement at branch regional and national executive level, she represents black, women and disabled members nationally in various roles including Chair.

She is a campaigner across local, national politics and communities.

She is a Public sector worker- Social Care, Youth Services, Further Education and Housing sector. Voluntary work includes Chair- GMCA Race equality Panel, Board - Just Psychology, Trustee - Faith Network for Manchester, Rape Crisis, Domestic Violence helpline, and babysitter.

Employed as Equality Diversity and Inclusion lead, she is also mother to four incredible, diverse women.

She writes poetry in her spare time and is both learning and teaching her 3 year-old grandson to play the ukulele she bought him for Christmas 21.

Jennifer Aggrey-Finn Eurostar Customer Service

RMT

Jennifer Aggrey-Fynn has worked for Eurostar International Ltd. for almost 18 years in the frontline Customer Service team. Working with multilingual colleagues from all over the world, fully appreciating the value of being a member of a dynamic trade union particularly as a woman and as part of the fight against discrimination and those with disabilities.

Her passion for justice means she has always been an activist. She has been on the RMT’s Black & Ethnic Minority Members Advisory Committee for 12 years serving as Chair, Vice Chair and most recently as their first Secretary. Jennifer is also a long-standing delegate on the RMT National Women's Advisory Committee and has been their Chair too.

Jennifer is an RMT Lay Tutor and London & Anglia Regional Council Education Officer. She has been on the TUC RRC for 4 years and would be honoured to continue representing her union on the Committee.

Pat Davis Bus Driver

*Unite the Union*

I am a female bus driver for Transport for London working for Arriva Bus Company for the past 28 years, providing services for the wider community. I have been active in union duties during this same period starting from the T&G days before it merged to become Unite the Union.

I attend quite a lot of courses mainly to do with equality because I am an Equality Rep. I get involved in my London & Eastern region and participate in demonstrations and conferences regionally and nationally. I support everything to do with Equality rights.

My Union Representative roles include:-

Unite National Executive Committee Member

Vice Chair, Regional Committee

National/Regional BAEM Committee member

National/Regional Women’s Committee member

National/Regional Industrial Sector (Passenger) Committee member

Vice Chair for Passenger Area Activists Committee

National Workplace Equality Rep

I am also a member of the:

SERTUC Regional committee

Labour Party and BAME Labour

Ruba Sivagnanam MP senior caseworker and county councillor

GMB

I‘m Ruba. I moved to Penarth ten years ago with my husband and three children; I was a criminal defence barrister and worked in policy and campaigns across disability and equality issues for many years. When I came to Wales, I volunteered for Citizen’s Advice before becoming a caseworker for my local MP and a County Councillor in the Vale of Glamorgan. In my work I spend a lot of time face-to-face with the people of South Wales, listening to them and helping them to find solutions to the challenges they face. I have always wanted to make a difference. As the GMB’s Race Network lead for Wales and the South West I want to work together to encourage our BAME members to become active.  
I am a keen swimmer. I love culture and the arts and whenever possible feed my soul at the theatre, cinema and gallery.

Andrea Welter Teacher

*NASUWT*

It is imperative that our children grow up seeing what they want to be and opportunities must be provided for reflecting on the past and taking action in order to impact the future.

I am one of the organisers for the newly established West Midlands Black Teachers’ Network which followed the NASUWT’s Big Conversation which stemmed from the 2021 Black Teachers’ Consultation Conference. As a School Leader, I promote culture, diversity and challenge where this is misrepresented.

We all have a part to play, no matter our profession or role. As an active member of the NASUWT, I pride myself on being visible at local, regional and national levels.

I am currently a member of the TUC Race Relations Committee and believe that being a member of this Committee provides important opportunities for Union networking and Organising.

Let us continue to support each other in order to systematically shape the future for our next generations.

Section C

*1 place available: 1 nominations received*

Mark Bastianni, Postman

CWU

I have worked for Royal Mail for over 20 years and a proud member of the Communication Workers Union (CWU) I have held several roles in the CWU / TUC & LESE:

TUC Race Taskforce Committee member

Elected to the TUC Black Workers Committee 2019 – present

Elected to the TUC Disabled Workers’ Committee 2019 – present

Member of the TUC London LESE (RRC) Race Relations Committee (CWU) 2011- 2019 and was a joint secretary 2016 – 2019. I still attend when possible

CWU Race Advisory Committee Member (RAC) 2011 - 2013 & 2017 – 2019

CWU Black Workers Conference delegate 2010 – 2019

Mentoring BME

I strongly believe that with the effect of COVID-19 on our members with a disability from a BAME background that

I have something to offer the committee given my experience.

I have also organized a number of events around Windrush that were hosted at congress house.

Section D

*1 place available: 1 nomination received*

Taranjit Chana Advice worker

GMB

A lifelong anti-racism campaigner, challenging discrimination and racism both in the workplace & society. First woman of colour to be awarded the Eleanor Marx Award for most inspirational Woman at GMB Congress. Involved in and contributed towards organising conferences both in person and on line, appeared on panels/fringe meetings highlighting issues from Black and workers of colour representation in work structures, ethnicity pay gap, Domestic abuse being a trade union issue, challenging misogynoir and racism in the LGBT+ community, raising awareness of the far right in the workplaces and highlighting issues impacting disabled workers/people by standing alongside and supporting disability activists.

I am currently the National Race lead and sit on the National Equality Forum, Regional Equality Forum, Regional Committee and Regional Council. I am also Branch secretary. I currently sit on the TUC LGBT+ Committee (Race seat) and the TUC Race Relations Committee (LGBT+ seat).