

**2023 TUC Black
Workers'
Conference**

Nominations

Section A

14 places available: 14 nominations received

San Senik Train Driver

Associated society of locomotive engineers and firemen

I am San Senik a freight train driver of Kurdish origin. I joined the rail industry in 2019 and became active within ASLEF whilst still training. I am the first female on the union's national BAME committee representing members from the North East. Later I became the first female chair of this committee and I am the first female branch secretary of ASLEF's first ever established branch.

I have worked within my region to raise the profile of all minority groups within ASLEF to ensure that these groups feel empowered to put themselves forward for union positions and voice their concerns within the union machinery with confidence.

I have represented ASLEF at the TUC Black Workers Conference every year since becoming a member.

I am currently part of a group working within Kurdish and Turkish speaking communities to tackle workplace exploitation, educate on employment rights and promote union membership.

Christopher Knight Supervising Officer

Community

I am a union member in the Justice Sector and member of the Justice Sector Committee. I hold the BAME seat on Community's NEC. I believe that we are stronger when we work together as a collective. I am committed to supporting an inclusive and diverse union movement, tackling inequalities, wherever they exist in the workplace or society. We need a strong voice for black members, raising awareness of the issues faced, listening and engaging with members across all sectors. I welcome the challenges before me in helping shape structures that support members to be heard and developing campaigns that actively seek ways to increase members involvement. Campaigns addressing issues directly affecting pay, progression, health services, education and wherever inequalities exist.

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

Ali Moosa BT ENGINEER

Communication workers union

Joined CWU: 1988

Job Title: Branch Secretary CWU Midland No1 Branch

Date Started employment relevant to CWU: 1988

Record of CWU Activity: I've been a member of the CWU since 1988; I'm the Branch Secretary of the CWU Midland No1 Branch. I have been a delegate to the CWU annual conference from 1997 and also been a delegate to the TUC Conference. I have completed all the necessary Trade Union training and also sit on the CWU Employment Tribunal Panel. I'm also a CWU Tutor. I currently hold the position as the Chairperson for the CWU Midlands Region. I am the BT TSO single point of contact for the Midlands BT Committee. In 2019 I was elected onto the CWU NEC as the BAME representative. I am passionate about race issues and would be honoured to serve again on the Race Relations Committee which I currently sit.

Abdi Mohamed Charity Public Affairs Manager

GMB

I am standing to join the TUC Black Workers Committee, so I can push for the betterment of BAME workers, in our union movement, workplaces across our country and wider society.

I am proud to be an active trade unionist for over a decade now. I am currently the Chair of GMB Race, GMB London region's self-organised group, which leads campaigns engaging BAME workers across London. I am also proud to be a GMB Workplace Rep.

I would be thrilled to be able to take this union experience, along with over a decade of political strategy, communication, policy development and campaigning experience at a national, regional and local level, to play my part on the Black worker's committee. I would relish the opportunity to work closely with the range of unions in our movement.

Louisa St. Bartholomew Brown Morgan Actor

Equity

Seven years ago, when I was elected to Equity's REC, it never dawned on me that in 2022, we would still be struggling for recognition as fellow human beings, regardless of race, colour or creed.

Despite international outrage and campaigns which raged against the treatment of Black People discrimination persists in every nook and corner of a society that doesn't judge you for your abilities but on the colour of your skin.

Worse still, Covid-19 highlighted the racism our workers faced and almost decimated the Entertainment Industry.

For so long, the system has continued to pit itself against Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic people in all walks of life and has blighted and impacted terribly on our lives especially in the workplace.

Moving towards anti-racism is now a collective movement which now requires a powerful cultural and seismic shift for the sake of future generations.

Ruth Duncan Teacher

NASUWT

I am a passionate D&T teacher and extremely proud to be part of the NASUWT lay-led Union structure. I am an NASUWT National Executive Member supporting teachers within North-West London – District 22. I also serve on the NASUWT National and Greater London Region Recruitment and Organising Committees. My relentless activism has positively inspired many black members to take up School Contact and Local Officer roles within their workplaces / associations.

I recently launched NASUWT Greater London Black Teachers Network, where we celebrate, share and strive to eliminate barriers we may encounter as we commit to our chosen profession.

I actively participate in NASUWT delegations for TUC Black Workers' Conferences, TUC Women's Conferences and Congress since. I am keen to serve on the TUC Race Relations Committee with the ultimate aim of promoting equality of opportunity, empowerment and wellbeing for all black workers in all industrial settings and professions.

Denise Henry Teacher

National Education Union

- NEU Executive Equality seat holder for Black members.
- Lambeth based teacher with over 20 years' experience.
- Equalities Officer and NEU school representative for Lambeth NEU.
- Committee member for district for 13 years.
- 2018- elected as the first black woman to be a member of the LGBT+ National organising forum.
- 2020- became the first black woman to be elected as Vice- Chair for the forum in its long history.
- 2020- awarded an award for outstanding intersectionality work at the Black Educators Conference.
- Nominated as NEU Black Educators Conference steering committee for many conferences.
- Track record of organising and representing Black members in the NEU at School, District, Regional and National level.
- Executive member with a motto that "No Black members will be left behind! We have a wealth of experience and skills, and I will help to inspire Black members to reach their full potential."

**Faisal Qureshi
Committee**

Chair of BECTU's Black Members

Prospect

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

Hector Wesley Employer Compliance Caseworker

Public and commercial services union

I have been a member of the PCS Union National Executive Committee since 2004 and since 2013 I have been Deputy President of the PCS Revenue & Custom Group representing circa 30000 PCS members working in HM Revenue & Customs.

I was one of the first Compliance Officers appointed to enforce the National Minimum Wage and I assisted in developing the enforcement strategy in this area.

I'm experienced in providing individual representation to members, including up to Employment Tribunal level. One of the Tribunal cases I was involved with was finally determined by the European Court of Justice and it clarified the law in relation to the entitlement to statutory annual leave whilst a worker is off sick.

I campaign for equality, rights, and justice through my work with Black Activists Rising Against Cuts. For a number of years, I have delivered humanitarian aid to migrants in Northern France

Olanrewaju Apantaku

Guard, South Western Railway

RMT

Olanrewaju, known as "Ola" to his colleagues, has been a member of the RMT for over 17 years since working on the railways.

Always a keen attender at branch meetings, he became a rep 7 years ago. Ola has been the RMT Waterloo Branch Chair since 2020.

Ola has also actively engaged with the RMT Black and Ethnic Minority structure, being elected as a delegate to the Black and Ethnic Minority Members' Advisory Committee for three separate terms. He has also attended numerous Black and Ethnic Minority Members conferences.

At the last conference Ola was elected Vice-Chair to the Black and Ethnic Minority Members Advisory Committee. If elected to the TUC Race Relations Committee this would be his first time on the Committee. He hopes to bring his experience as an RMT activist and rep, and work with the members to progress the actions from this conference.

Anwar Ali Employment Relations Officer

Royal College of Podiatry

Anwar is a Law graduate who joined the busy legal department of an education Union in 2013. Embracing the challenges that were presented, he swiftly became the 'go-to' person amongst colleagues who would regularly call upon his advice and expertise. Now a full-time Employment Relations Officer for the Royal College of Podiatry, he is passionate about providing exceptional formal representation and advice to Members and Reps. Anwar sits on the Equality, Diversity & Inclusivity Committee and has produced an Equalities course for the Royal College of Podiatry's Reps. He is championing a campaign to recruit more Equality Reps and delivered motions at TUC Congress about the importance of winning on Equalities in the workplace. Cognisant that there is a lack of diversity in leadership positions and particularly within the Muslim community, Anwar seeks to empower those without a voice and be an inspiring positive role model for all.

Gargi Bhattacharyya Professor

University and College Union

Committee member and officer in AUT and UCU, since 1995

Member of AUT NEC

Former Vice-President of AUT

Founding member of AUT black members' network

Former chair of AUT equality committee

Former delegate to TUC

Member of transitional arrangements committee – merger of NATFHE and AUT

Member of UCU NEC

Member of UCU Black Members' Standing Committee

UCU representative on TUC Race Relations Committee

Currently branch chair at University of East London

These are difficult times and many of us are facing attack on several fronts. I hope that this year the Race Relations Committee will reach out to those leading these battles and build stronger relationships and shared work with community campaigns, the student movement and those battling precarious working conditions, including those not yet linked to a TUC affiliate. Whether on or off the committee, I would like to contribute to this work.

James Minto Senior Practitioner

UNISON

- I have worked for Local Government for over 25 years in Residential Care Services as a Senior Practitioner. I am Branch Chair and Deputy Convenor East Midlands Region.
- As a committed member of Unison National Black Members Committee, I believe, we need to seek and utilise every opportunity and every stage to ensure the collective voices of Black workers across the UK and beyond are heard. The TUC Race Relations Committee provides the platform in the trade union arena.
- It is my duty to actively advocate for all Black Workers in the fight against all discriminatory and racist acts in employment.
- 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.
- I will engage strategically with all members across the union to develop positive and mutual partnerships that will support the ongoing work of the NBMC.

Harish Patel National Officer

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.

Maureen Loxley Shopworker recently retired

Union of shop, distribute and allied workers

I have worked in retail for most of my adult life. I've been a member of Usdaw for 40 years and a rep for over 20. Shopworkers and Usdaw members generally are in jobs and workplaces that heighten our risk of exposure to racist abuse and harassment and yet we remain amongst the lowest paid workers in the UK economy. Furthermore, the retail sector is facing an uncertain future with Black workers and women likely to be at the sharp end of redundancies and re-organisations. Over the past year I have played a significant role in helping shape Usdaw's response to the TUC Anti-Racism Taskforce. If re-elected to the Committee I will bring my experience to bear by highlighting the issues that affect workers, particularly Black workers, in the retail sector and report back on the progress we are making to address underrepresentation and further the advancement of Black members.

Section C

4 places - 6 nominations received

Andrea Welter **Teacher**

NASUWT

I currently serve as the Vice Chair on the NASUWT's Black Teachers' Advisory Committee which is very active for members who identify with protected characteristics.

A proud co-founder of the West Midlands Black Teachers' Network which has hosted two events so far modelling my own activism as well as empowering black members to become more active.

It is imperative that our young people grow up seeing what they want to be and as a School Leader, I endorse diversity, equality and equity and challenge where this is misrepresented.

We all have a part to play and as an active member of the NASUWT, I pride myself on being visible at local, regional and national levels.

Being a member of the TUC Race Relations Committee provides opportunities for Union networking and support.

Let us continue to support each other to shape the future for the next generations across our professions.

Melecia Mullings **Train operator, London Underground**

RMT:

Steadfast trade unionist for over 21 years for the RMT.

I am seeking a nomination to the TUC RRC. I passionately challenge discrimination and believe in radical empowerment to overcome structural barriers and inequality.

I'm an IR rep, RMT Bakerloo line Branch Chair, Vice-President of the London Transport Regional Council.

I'm a regular delegate to conferences and committees including RMT AGM, RMT Black and Ethnic Member's Conferences, TUC Black workers and RMT/TUC women's conference. I'm currently the Secretary to the RMT National Black and Ethnic Members Advisory Committee.

I am keen to see women play a bigger part in trade unions, having often found that I'm the first elected Black woman ever to many of these roles, this needs to change quickly.

I serve an active role in my community and have led BLM demos, reparations campaigns and spoken out against many injustices.

Juliana Ojinnaka Lecturer

University and College Union

I am actively involved in local UCU branch as the EDI and Health & Safety Officer; regions deputy chair and a member of Black members Y&H. Nationally, I serve on the Black Member Standing Committee (BMSC) and Women's Standing Committee (WSC). I want to join the TUC Race Relations Committee because, women still face sexual discrimination and oppression in a multiplicity of ways as a consequence of their protected characteristics and the intersectionality of these, manifests in low pay and precarious contracts, racial discriminations and unequal caring responsibilities especially in times of COVID-19. I organise and participate in workshops & webinar's on decolonising the curriculum and institutions, spoken to motions at TUC Women's conference on importance of decolonising the curriculum and challenging stereotypes to ensure the education system works for black women and girls. Specific needs of Black women are not discussed; there is a need for an intersectional approach.

Elizabeth Cameron Equality Diversity and Inclusion Lead

UNISON

I am an Equality Diversity and Inclusion lead in social housing, having worked 20 plus years in local government in various roles across adults, children's social services, youth services and further education.

I'm an Equalities Warrior, An Antiracism champion, Public Speaker, and Ambassador for Show Racism the Red Card. I've had active involvement at branch regional and National Executive level in my trade union serving 4 terms as Black Members representative.

I'm a community activist fighting for race equality and against injustice.

I highlight the intersectional experience of race & class, women, LGBT+ and disability inequality. Voluntary work includes Chair- GMCA Race equality Panel, Board - Just Psychology, Faith Network for Manchester.

I'm a single parent mother of four incredible, diverse women. My varied life and work experiences mean I have a lot to contribute, and I enjoy working with others strategically to improve and achieve for Black people.

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 29 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

Cerriann Taylor Writer/Consultant

Writers' Guild of Great Britain

In 2012, I entered the Houses of Parliament to interview the now former Home and Education Secretary, David Blunkett, whilst creating a report for the Prince's Trust Policy and Strategy department, on behalf of News UK. This was featured as part of a national campaign across their titles which highlighted issues for young people accessing and choosing relevant work experience across the UK.

At the Writers Guild of Great Britain, I now advise on the Books Committee, have represented their voice at the Federation of Entertainment Union's black members roundtable and am a juror for the First Novel Award.

I am currently a consultant for the Centre of Equality, Diversity and Inclusion at Birmingham City University. In this role I am looking at source material to monitor how diverse and representative it is of our modern society, working to 'decolonise the curriculum' and giving evidence-based real time feedback.

Section C

1 place available 3 nomination received

Mark Anthony Bastiani **Postman**

Communication workers union

I've worked for Royal Mail for over 18 years. I'm a member of the Communication Workers Union (CWU). I'm currently sit on the TUC Race Relations Committee.

My CWU/TUC biography includes:

- CWU Race Advisory Committee Member (RAC) 2011 - 2013 & 2017 – 2019
- TUC London LESE (RRC) Race Relations Committee (CWU) 2011- 2019 and joint secretary 2016 – 2019
- CWU Black Workers Conference delegate 2010 – 2019
- CWU London Equality Officers Committee member / Chairperson 2009 – 2019
- CWU Disability Advisory Committee Member 2015 – 2019
- Member of the LESE Disabled Members Network 2014 - Present, Mark is currently the Chair of the Network since 2017
- CWU NEC Disability lead
- Mentoring BME
- Discussion Leaders

As part of my RRC role I was an organizer for a number of events on Windrush hosted at congress house. I am passionate about Race issues and would be honoured to serve in this role again.

Maria Charles **Contact Supervisor, Children's Social Services**

GMB

I am currently the Women's Lead on GMB Southern's Regional Equalities Forum and member of the GMB Southern Race Network. I am also a workplace representative in my local branch. I believe it's a priority to empower all members to stand up and fight for what's right, fair, and deserved. I have witnessed how black members are not empowered to challenge workplace issues.

Being on the committee will enable me to gain more insight and valuable skills from others who have more experience and gained knowledge. I will have the opportunity to bring back to the members gained expertise to serve them better on the forum and other networks. I attend the equality, diversity, and inclusion meetings at work, where the disparities are a constant feature to be worked on. I want to make a difference.

Tracey Hylton Customs Procedures Caseworker

Public And Commercial Services Union

I'm a 55-year-old, partially deaf Black Woman, Socialist, Equality campaigner/ Trade Union Activist. Now in 2nd Year as a member of PCS's National Executive Committee, 6th as Vice Chair of National Black Members Committee and 7th as Chair of my groups Black Members Committee.

I am also in Equalities Committee and Women's Committee, previously been in Disability Committee and have been in Group Disability Committee for 7 years. I'm also on NW TUC Black Workers Committee, TUC NW, PCS NW Co-Vice Chair, Co-Convenor for PCS NW Black Members. I've previously worked in Black Voluntary Sector supporting organisations, also working with Asylum Seekers, Refugees and migrants, Housing Policy, University Researcher, and Equality Consultant.

I am active supporting comrades from other unions in disputes and as a branch rep and Equality Officer gaining wins for members. I've been a speaker at TU, Anti-Racism, Anti-War, Climate Emergency campaigns/protests. Supporter of BARAC.

Section D

1 place available for LGBT+ member: 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).