

Nominations

**TUC Disabled Workers'
Conference 2022**

Nominations

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Section A – General Seats

(14 places, 13 nominations)

Carol Wood

Teacher - NASUWT

I am fully committed to the NASUWT agenda of campaigning for equality for all.

As a woman with a disability, I am a member of the NASUWT Scotland National Equality and Policy Committees and am an advocate for ensuring that we have true representation.

I am a member of the NASUWT Training Committee and work to ensure that training is accessible for all who wish to gain more skills and knowledge; particularly in Health, Safety & Wellbeing.

We must ensure that there are no barriers in society towards disabled people and campaign collectively to ensure that these are removed.

I have spoken at many conferences regarding the importance of inclusiveness and accessibility. True equality is paramount in a diverse inclusive society.

It is important that as we move out of the pandemic, people with disabilities are not left behind and that our needs and our contributions are recognised.

Austin Harney

Civil Servant - Public And Commercial Services Union (PCS)

I am on the PCS NEC, PCS National Disabled Members' Forum and the TUC Disabled Workers' Committee (TUC DWC). I represent members up to employment tribunal, especially for disabled workers. I work in the Office of the Public Guardian, looking after the money of mentally incapacitated clients. I am Autistic, and want better employment of Autistic people which dropped to 25%, lower than other employed Disabled people at 53%. My campaigns include: opposing the disability pay gap; inclusive education and better transport for the disabled during COVID19; bringing "Disability Hate Crime" to justice; fighting cyber harassment; and preventing dangerous cures for Autism. I spoke on behalf of the TUC DWC at the COP26 demonstration in Cambridge against Climate Change. I work with "Disabled People Against the Cuts" opposing Universal Credit. I arranged the first historical meeting between the Irish Congress of Trade Unions for Disabled Workers and the TUC DWC.

Jonathan Bellshaw

BT Customer Service Advisor - Communication Workers Union

Hello I'm Jonathan Bellshaw. I work for BT as a customer service advisor.

I'm currently a national negotiating team member dealing with BT Consumer & Group billing functions as well as the Telecoms & Financial Services Disabled Workers Rep on the CWU National Executive Committee and previously Vice Chair of the Disability Advisory Committee. I have also attended numerous TUC Disabled Workers conferences over the years as well as Labour Party and TUC conferences. Trade unions must ensure that people with disabilities are protected from discrimination and we must hold companies, councils and Governments to account more where they discriminate. I will work hard to ensure the committee does this.

Chloë Clarke

Actor – Equity

I've been a member of Equity for over 12 years - the entire duration of my career in theatre and television - and have been a committed member of my union's D/deaf & Disabled Member's Committee since 2016. The entertainment industry has the power to greatly influence society's view of disabled people and we fight to ensure that representation of disability is authentic and fair.

I would like to broaden my experience and bring my knowledge and commitment to the DWC in order to represent the thousands of disabled workers in our industry who face the same issues as those in other sectors but also, largely, must be self-employed by necessity and therefore face additional challenges. Having attended Conference last year, I've seen the important change that the DWC is implementing and believe that I, on behalf of my union, can add a unique voice to the committee.

Val Cooke

Checkout Supervisor - Union of Shop, Distributive and Allied Workers

I work as a checkout supervisor in a large supermarket. I am both a rep and a ULR for Usdaw. The last eighteen months have taken their toll on members' physical and mental health as we have been and remain at heightened risk of exposure to the virus. In addition we are also regularly exposed to abuse and

harassment and poor management attitudes and practices as well as stretched by staff shortages and are routinely expected to do twice as much for the same pay. Disabled workers are feeling more marginalised at work, less secure and less valued than ever which is saying something. I regularly campaign to raise Deaf awareness and campaign on mental health emphasising the part the workplace plays in creating and exacerbating mental distress. If elected I will do my best to ensure the experiences of disabled workers in retail informs the work of the Committee.

Colleen Johnson

Teacher - National Education Union

Originally from Middlesbrough. I have spent 33 years as a primary teacher in Birmingham and Worcester.

Part of the Multicultural Development Unit for nine years.

Active within the NUT as school rep for five years, I was an equality officer and part of Birmingham NEU Executive. I am currently equality officer and VP of Worcestershire NEU.

Formerly a member of the working party and vice chair of the NUT advisory group on Disability Equality. I now chair the NEU Disabled Members' Organising Forum.

Delegate and speaker at TUC Disabled Workers' Conference on thirteen occasions between 2007 and 2020.

Delegate and speaker at NUT Annual Conference on six occasions between 2013 and 2018 and NEU Annual Conference 2019-21.

Re- elected to the NEU National Executive as Disabled Members' Seat Holder- I speak regularly on disabled people's rights, visit districts to speak and take my responsibility to our disabled members seriously.

Sian Stockham

Support Worker - UNISON

I have served on UNISON's National Executive Council since 2005, as a representative from Cymru / Wales. I sit on a number of regional and national committees, including UNISON's National Disabled Members Committee and am vice chair of the Labour Link Committee. I'm also active within the Cymru / Wales Labour Party.

I am in the unique position of being part of three sectors within UNISON, community, health and local government. Because of this, I am able to empathise with the attacks on members in each of these services, as well as members from other sectors.

I have been active member since joining UNISON and am committed to building a modern and mainstream union. UNISON is a member led union, we need to be relevant, inclusive and important to every member.

Amy Bishop

Scientist AWE - Prospect

I am a scientist and have been a member of Prospect since leaving university. I have worked on disability issues in the workplace for over 11 years and have been a regular attendee at conference. As well as obvious physical impairments, I am also dyslexic and have experienced mental health issues.

I have been a member of the TUC Disabled Workers Committee for 5 years and would like to continue this work. I also sit on the Prospect Equal Opportunities Advisory Committee and am an Equality Rep in the workplace. I work with individual members to ensure they are being treated fairly by the employer and also meet regularly with the employer at HR and executive level to ensure disabled members needs are not being forgotten.

I am passionate about making sure disability issues are on the negotiating agenda and continue to fight to make sure we are not forgotten.

Themesa Neckles

University Teacher - University and College Union (UCU)

I am a disabled Black woman working in higher education, living with and experiencing the challenges of the past year, all of which has strengthened my resolve to continue to campaign for the rights of all disabled workers. I have experienced and witnessed the barriers faced by many disabled people in the workplace and I continually campaign to address the intersectional disadvantages faced by many whose voices are often not heard.

As my branch equality officer and Vice Chair to UCU's Disabled Members' Standing Committee, I have been able to develop policy to equip and support disabled workers throughout the union and to bring about the changes needed.

Having first being elected to the committee last year, I would welcome the opportunity to continue to work on the work strands that have been identified to push forward on the rights of all disabled workers in all sectors

Janine Booth

Night Tube Station Supervisor, London Underground - RMT

Janine Booth works as a Night Tube station supervisor, as well as being a trade union tutor, writer and poet. Janine serves on the TUC Disabled Workers' Committee, including a spell as co-chair.

Janine proposed the establishment of RMT's Disabled Members' Advisory Committee and Conference, and served for three years as chair before taking up the newly-created role of secretary. Janine is a former member of our union's National Executive Committee and former chair of our Women's Advisory Committee.

Janine is an active campaigner against austerity, and is involved in the Safe and Equal campaign for full sick and isolation pay for all workers, and in Free Our Unions.

As a trade union tutor, Janine has developed and delivered training on disability in the workplace, the social model, autism, neurodiversity, mental health and more.

Janine is Women's Officer of Lewes Labour Party and chair of Neurodivergent Labour

Andy Worth

Bus Driver - Unite the Union

Andy Worth is a bus driver that has worked in the profession for 19 years, he has been a trade unionist for 14 years and a dedicated activist.

He is chair of the Unite Southwest Regional Disabled members committee and a delegate to the National Disabled members committee. He has supported and campaigned on issues on public transport for disabled people. He holds the disabled seat on the southwest TUC and has attended many TUC Disabled Workers Conferences where he has spoken on several issues. In his role as branch chair and his previous role as the equalities officer, he has campaigned for equality reps to be given equal rights as all other reps.

He has been instrumental within his company in putting a wheelchair policy in place within his company, Plymouth Citybus.

He is an active supporter of implementing the social model of disability.

Ann Galpin

Freelance Journalist - NUJ

Autistic woman journalist living with ADHD, mental distress and invisible impairments. Survivor of trauma, workplace bullying and discrimination. My lived experience drives my activism

A team worker, I'm a strong representative for disabled workers and promote the importance of intersectional campaigns. I connect and develop disabled activists and allies across the labour movement, and work in co-production with the wider disabled people's movement.

Co-Chair, TUC Disabled Workers' Committee since 2018 and DW Committee member since 2010; and Chair, NUJ Disabled Members Council since 2008:

Advise on disability equality and inclusion across the TUC's policy, campaigning, training, and organising activities; and organise DWConferences.

Organise, chair and speak at disability equality events e.g TUC Disability History Month webinars 2021; parliamentary meetings on universal credit, the UNCRPD and disability equality in education;

Mental Health Crisis Summit 2019.

Co-chair Trade Union Independent Living subgroup.

Submitted evidence for UNCRPD shadow report 2022.

Joe Smith

CCTV Operator and GMB Branch Secretary - GMB

My history working with disabled people at Remploy, and being elected on the National Joint Council, being part of the Remploy consortium showed me the diversity in working and understanding disabled people.

My first year elected on the TUC committee and in the middle of Covid19 has brought challenging times, waking up overnight to visual meetings, no face to face contact, and being part of an elected body of disabled people, I can only go on and offer my spheres of influence to this committee.

Now the country is opening up, getting back to normal, I believe I can bring my knowledge and experience to a whole new perspective, moving on in the way disabled people need to be in the workplace, and home working.

I hugely value disabled people, being elected I can offer my support.

Section B – Black Members

(One place, two nominations)

Julian Allam

Health & Safety and Equalities Representative – Unite the Union

I have been a trade union activist for the last 37 years representing members both in the workplace and the wider trade union movement, holding key positions within the West Midlands representing at a national level

- Senior Steward Royal Mail Coventry and Warwickshire.
- Branch Equalities Officer.
- Disabled National & Regional Committee Delegate.
- BAEM National & Regional Committee Delegate.
- Unite Delegate to the National TUC Disabled Committee.
- Unite Delegate to Regional TUC Disabled and BAEM Committees.
- Unite Executive Council Member representing BAEM

During my time on these committees I have supported the regions initiatives and national events and I have been actively involved in many campaigns including.

- The Hardest Hit Campaign
- The Race Forward Campaign
- Save our NHS.
- Disabled Voices.
- Disabled history month.
- BAEM History month.

If I am fortunate enough to be nominated and elected I will promote the advancement of Equalities in all industries via protests, resources and campaigns.

Ann Weekes

Health Advisor - London Ambulance Service NHS Trust (LAS) - GMB

I have 30 years professional experience in Health and Social Care with a specialism in Disabilities and Mental Health.

I have been a Union Representative since 2001, focusing on disabled membership and representation. Between 2005–2016, I consecutively held the position of Disability Officer and became a regular National Delegate.

After a short spell away from activism, I joined GMB after being Taped to the London Ambulance Service NHS Trust in 2018. I am currently the GMB London Disability Communications Officer and the GMB LAS Equality Diversity & Inclusion Officer. I am also a Senior WPO and a ULR. I am also the LAS Staff Disability Network Chair and National Ambulance Disability Network Secretary.

My vast knowledge of trade union activism, ERGs and intersectionality, will be a huge asset to the Disabled Workers Committee; especially in this unprecedented and unpredictable time which continues to give fodder to disablism and ableism

Section C – LGBT Members

(One place, one nomination)

Dawn Lovatt

Senior Health Care Support Worker - GMB

Section D – Women Members

(One place, three nominations)

Lara Morris

Teacher – NASUWT

I am currently president of Merthyr Tydfil Association and NASUWT Cymru President I am actively involved as a representative, equality officer and training tutor. My disability has meant that I am only able to work as a supply teacher.

I am a member of the NASUWT Disabled Teachers' Advisory Committee and have been a regular delegate at the Disabled, Supply and Women's Teachers' Conferences. I have also attended both the TUC Cymru Women's and national conferences.

I have recently become a ULR and Health and Wellbeing Champion, which is an essential role in all unions. The increase in casework related to teachers' mental health problems has lead the Advisory Committee to target this important issue at the NASUWT Disabled Teachers' Conferences.

Whilst on the Disabled Workers Committee, I have been nominated to serve on the TUC Equality Committee and look forward to liaising with other unions on equality issues.

Angela Montgomery

Assistant General Secretary, Prison Officers Association - Unite the Union

I have been a UNITE activist for over 15 years and a trade union activist all my working life having joined USDAW whilst working for Boots. I have supported trade unions in campaigning for equal rights for workers. I have held the following positions.

- Branch Chair
- Regional Chair and National Delegate for Community not For Profit in the North East Yorkshire and Humber
- Regional and National Delegate for the Disabled Members and Women's Committee
- Regional Delegate for the Regional and BAEM Committee

During my time on these committees I have been actively involved in regional and national events/campaigns.

If I am fortunate enough to be elected, I will promote the rights of disabled workers to be treated equitably in terms of recruitment, promotion and receiving equitable treatment with their non-disabled colleagues whether this is campaigning and organising, collective action and not to be forgotten supporting individual members.

Wendy Cole

Finance Assistant, Trivallis - GMB

Qualities & experience I can bring are:

- Workplace Organiser since 2018
- Member of GMB Regional Equality Forum
- Recently appointed as Disability Strand Lead for the National Equality Committee.
- Set up Workplace RESPECT Equality Group
- Campaigned for The Disability Passport at my workplace.
- Used GMB Menopause Toolkit, to implement Menopause Policy in my workplace.
- Worked to have GMB Domestic Abuse Charter signed up to at my workplace.
- Region lead for The Disability Network, working with the Regions Equality Officer & local Disability Groups to increase awareness and uptake of the forum.
- Spoken at GMB Congress in 2019, REF and Regional Equality Conference.
- Having been born with a disability, I always see the benefits in what you can do as a disabled person, seeing disability as 'differently abled' rather than 'disabled'.
- I am confident and very able to listen to all views, put across views and ideas.

Section E – Young Members

(One place, no nominations)