

# **Nominations**

**TUC LGBT+  
Conference 2023**

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## Section A – General Seats

(14 places, 12 nominations)

**Darran Brown**                      **Train Driver**

### ***ASLEF***

I'm Darran, an active and committed trade unionist. I have served on the ASLEF LGBT+ Committee for the last 15 years, always working to improve the workplace for our LGBT+ members. I've also held Branch Secretary and Branch Chairperson and I am the current District Secretary. These positions allow me to push a continuance of equality for all within my union structures.

Further to this I've been on the TUC LGBT+ Committee for 11 years, which has given me the opportunity to speak out for LGBT+ equality at many TUC and STUC strand conferences. I have also spoken at TUC Congress in support of inclusion and equality and against hate and discrimination.

I've attended many training courses and I am always willing to learn in order to support others.

**Patrick Carberry**                      **Fire Fighter**

### ***Fire Brigades Union***

I have been a firefighter and member of the FBU since 1986. I first served on the TUC LGBT+ Committee in 2000.

I am Secretary to the FBU LGBT+ Committee and prior to taking this post was the Chair of the Committee since its establishment within our Union's structure.

I am also an elected Labour Councillor.

I have attended every TUC LGBT+ Conference since 1999 and am committed to ensuring that the progress we have made continues in the right direction. The TUC and the TUC LGBT+ Conferences continue to be the leading voice with democratic accountability of LGBT+ workers and I hope to be able to continue to serve LGBT+ workers as a committee member.

**Sue Dunne**                      **Train Operator for London Transport**

### ***RMT***

Train Operator for London Underground and RMT member for over 20 years.

I have been a RMT H&S rep for over 10 years. I am an active member at branch level, a regular attendee at RMT's LGBT+ Members Conference and a long-standing member of the RMT LGBT+ Members Advisory Committee. I have also been a delegate to the union's AGM.

I have attended TUC LGBT+ Workers Conference since 2012 and was elected in 2014 to be on the TUC LGBT+ committee. I have enjoyed taking part in the debates around national and international issues, particularly on LGBT+ rights, and sharing with other unions the battles of LGBT+ employees in the workplace, such as hate crime. It would be an honour to continue on the committee.

**Stephen Dyer     Teacher**

### **NASUWT**

It has been an honour to have served on the NASUWT LGBTI Advisory committee since 2019, I became active within the union in 2015 when I was nominated to be Workplace representative for my School. In 2016 I was nominated as Health, Safety and Wellbeing representative and in 2017 I became the Health, Safety and Wellbeing officer for my local association, having completed all the relevant Union training opportunities.

I have represented the NASUWT at the TUC LGBT+ Conferences since 2018. I have thoroughly enjoyed representing the NASUWT on the LGBTI Advisory committee since 2019 and taking a role in the LGBTI Consultation Conferences.

I believe that a role on the TUC LGBT+ Committee is the best opportunity for promoting LGBTI equality, an ideal platform to advocate for an inclusive curriculum whilst delivering a strong message to the whole school community.

**Kacey De Groot     Teacher**

### ***National Education Union***

Kacey is full time teacher in a large Coventry Comprehensive and sits on the NEU executive in an elected role, representing LGBT+ members. She has taught Drama for 17 years in secondary teaching including time as a Head of Department in Drama, and as Assistant Principal Leader of Learning. She is an SSAT Accredited Lead Learning practitioner.

Transitioning in school, as a trans woman, led to her growing activism in the trade union movement.

She has attended National conference three times, as well as TUC LGBT+ conference and Congress.

Kacey is Equality Officer for Coventry District NEU and a workplace representative being active and engaged in both roles.

Kacey chairs the NEU LGBT+ Organising Forum and has hosted and chaired two conferences.

She has hosted and co-organised decolonising curriculum events and LGBT+ training in a range of contexts during lockdown and afterwards.

**Susanna (Sukey) Fisher     Writer**

### ***Writers' Guild of Great Britain (WGGB)***

I'm a mid-career trans, lesbian disabled screenwriter and producer, working in TV and Film and offering myself for a General Seat. For Writers' Guild I'm Chair of TV, our largest craft committee, having previously been the first (co-) chair of the Equality and Diversity Committee, which I helped establish. I'm also a member of the Guild Disabled Writers group. Outside the Guild – and in my professional work - I'm a busy trans and disability activist and am Chair of Trustees at Period Power, the Staffordshire/Midland period dignity charity, which has union support and connections.

This year I have also served as a co-opted member of the TUC's LGBT+ Committee.

### **Phil Jones      Senior convenor/lead workplace representative**

#### ***Unite the Union***

I have been an active member of the TUC LGBT+ Workers Committee for over 7 years and have positively contributed to numerous campaigns and activities. It has been an honour for me to have chaired the TUC LGBT+ Conference on several occasions.

I am an experienced workplace and equalities representative having been a "shop steward" for almost 35 years. Active in Unite's equalities and industrial structures at all levels - locally, regionally, nationally and internationally

Chair of Unite's National LGBT+ Member's committee

The LGBT+ representative on the Wales TUC General Council and the LGBT+ lead for the Wales TUC equalities committee.

I have organised union involvement at many LGBT+ events such as prides, conference fringe meetings, campaign stalls etc. and have often represent the union's equalities strands at various events such as Labour, TUC and international conferences.

I am experienced at combining LGBT+ activism with the wider workplace organising strategies.

### **David Murphy      Graduate Teaching Assistant, University of Lancaster**

#### ***University and College Union***

David Murphy is a PhD student at Lancaster University and works as both a Graduate Teaching Assistant within the PPR Department and a mentor within the department's writing space. David's research focuses on the idea of queer British response to queerphobia in Uganda and examines notions of international queer solidarity. His involvement with the UCU can be seen at both a local level, serving as his branch's co-Postgraduate rep and fighting for the rights and interests of casualised staff, as well at a national level, helping to develop a Continuous Professional Development (CPD) session for UCU members on combatting heteronormativity and cisnormativity. Outside of academia, David has also worked as a community organiser for a community union, and still is actively

involved in the organising for Lancaster and Morecambe's local Tenants and Community Union (TACU).

**Claire Mullaly                      Researcher & Engineer**

***Prospect***

I have been a dedicated member of the TUC LGBT+ committee for the last five years and the national Prospect Equal Opportunities Advisory Committee for the last six years.

In addition to my union roles, I have carried out MA level research on the trade union movement's role in advancing LGBT+ rights with a case study on equal marriage in N. Ireland. Aside from marriage equality in N. Ireland, I have recently worked on campaigns such as: International LGBT+ rights & asylum; Trans & non-binary rights; Challenging the far-right; The struggle for bodily autonomy and LGBT+ poverty & the cost of living.

I attended the TUC LGBT+ leadership school in 2017 and have spoken at TUC Congress and chaired TUC panels. I organise LGBT+ events, write blogs for the TUC and have spoken as a trade unionist and an activist on LGBT+ liberation on panels & public events.

**Sarah Pitt                      Postal Worker**

***CWU***

I am currently a Member of the TUC LGBT+ Committee and I am seeking a third term. I am also a member of the CWU National Executive Committee as one of the LGBT+ National leads. I still am very new to the committee, but I have found my time with the committee very rewarding and wish to build upon that. My work in the CWU is focused on campaigning on issues that affect the working lives of LGBT+ people in the UK and worldwide. The issues that I think are most important for the TUC LGBT+ committee over the next year are Fighting the growing trend of Transphobia, banning aversion Therapy, and campaigning against the rise of the Homophobic far right all over the world. In conclusion I would like to be re-elected to the Committee so I can represent LGBT+ workers.

**Neil Smale                      Supermarket Delivery Driver**

***USDAW***

I have been involved in Usdaw's equalities structures since they were first established over fifteen years ago. I was one of the Union's first out LGBT+ activists and my priority has always been to encourage other LGBT+ members to get more involved. Last November I chaired my Union's annual LGBT+ Get-Together. In recent months based on my own personal experience I have helped raise awareness of the unequal health outcomes for LGBT+ people and the barriers we face accessing timely and appropriate health care. I am also working with LGBT+ members to overcome the particular difficulties we face in the workplace. Customer abuse and harassment of LGBT workers is a big problem and I recognise that Union organisation is the key to creating safe workplaces. If re-elected I look

forward to being able to continue my role on the Committee giving a voice to LGBT+ workers in retail.

**Jeff Sutton**

**Branch Secretary**

***GMB***

The last 6 months on the committee have been a steep learning curve, meeting new people, getting used to the dynamics of the committee, finding my place, and promoting the ideas/position of the GMB.

I am currently leading on the Pride is a protest work group and am a member of the LGBT Pay Gap group. I was part of a small group that met with Stonewall to help develop the TUC LGBT+ Leadership Programme and I have been selected to join the programme and report back on the quality and relevance of the training. I am hoping to join the team to formulate the 2023 TUC LGBT+ conference which promises to be exciting.

Always committed to championing the rights of my LGBT+ comrades.

## Section B – Black Members

(Two places, 4 nominations)

**Taranjit Chana**                      **Advice Worker**

### **GMB**

A lifelong anti- racism campaigner, challenging LGBT+ hate, discrimination and racism 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 online, 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).

**Rohit Dasgupta**                      **Senior lecturer in cultural industries,  
University of Glasgow**

### **University and College Union**

I have been a committed trade unionist and LGBTQ+ activist for more than a decade. As a local Labour and Cooperative councillor, I have been at the forefront of challenging homo/transphobia locally. I was responsible for working with head teachers and the local authority on challenging relationship and sex education misinformation in schools. I have researched and published extensively on South Asian queer diasporas, Islamophobia and racism and COVID-19 disproportionality including giving evidence in Parliament.

Most recently I was at the forefront of a campaign in East London to pass a motion on trans awareness and racial bias that LGBTQ+ people face. I have wider trade union organising experience having been an equality officer & executive of the GMB union. I also chair the EDI committee in my school at the University of Glasgow. I thus have research, policy and organising experience as a queer person of colour.

**Manish Maisuria**                      **Operations Manager for Loughborough  
University**

### **UNISON**

I wish to stand representative for UNISON on the TUC LGBT+ Committee because I feel I can make a valid contribution from the perspective of a Black, LGBT+ person of Faith.



I have led two EDI Staff Network Forums at the University of Leicester (LGBT+ and BAME) and was their Race Manager, ensuring LGBT+ issues were embedded into race-related activities as part of a bid to further awareness of intersectionality's across the University. At Loughborough University, I am a member of the Staff LGBT+ and BAME Networks, the World Faiths Advisory Group, and continue my interests in EDI by working with LGBT+/BAME staff and students.

I sit on the UNISON LGBT+ National Committee and the TUC LGBT+ National Committee, have led on various motions at National Conferences and written articles around Black LGBT+ and Faith.

I feel I can bring experience and transferable skills to bring to this role.

**E.M. Williams**

**Actor**

### ***Equity***

Have stood on Equity's LGBT+ Committee since election in July 2021, and have been a steadfast vocal activist for intersectional LGBTQIAA+ issues both in their committee role and personal life. Having been in the industry for over ten years, EM's knowledge and expertise in a variety of areas have contributed to a unique understanding of LGBTQIAA+ community values, including but not limited to their connections to the circus, puppetry, theatre, drag, and cabaret network. Their midlands upbringing and their work around the UK has also contributed to combating a 'London centric' viewpoint of the industry, showing up for and supporting work outside of the capital. During their time on committee, EM has been a driving force behind Equity awareness within the drag and cabaret circuit, as well as playing a major role in the committee's first appearance at UK Black Pride.

## Section C – Disabled Members

(Two places, 4 nominations)

### **Neil Bellamy    Credit Controller for Northumbria University**

#### ***UNISON***

I have been a UNISON Activist for 14 years and am currently the Branch Chair, Equality Officer & Health and Safety Officer at Northumbria University Branch where I represent our members and negotiate with Management on their behalf.

I also Chair the Regional Higher Education Service Group, representing the Service Group on our Regional Committee and Regional Council. I chaired our Regional LGBT+ Self Organised Group for the past 4 years and now represent the Northern Region on our National LGBT+ Committee. I have also served on Higher Education Standing Orders Committee for the past 6 years.

I am also an experienced speaker at conferences and have written and delivered motions and speeches at LGBT+ and Higher Education Conferences.

I feel my workplace, UNISON and life experiences give me the skills required to have constructive input when I participate and to represent UNISON professionally and with commitment on this committee.

### **Sally Gates    Podiatrist**

#### ***Royal College of Podiatry***

As well as being an equalities rep, Sally is Chair of the Royal College of Podiatry's (RCP) Equalities, Diversity and Inclusion Group (EDI). She attends the RCP's Employment Relations Committee (ESC) as the equality's representative. Sally is also part of the EDI committee at the University of Salford School of Health and Society. She is involved with the University of Salford's LGBT+ network. She is also a member of the RCP's Health, Safety and Wellbeing Panel.

She has done the TUC Union Rep Level 1 training and is on the RCP's Leadership Programme.

Sally was involved in the student's network from 2017 to 2019 and its Chair 2018 to 2019. She was also Chair of the University of Southampton Podiatry Society 2018 - 2019 and has been a girl-guiding leader for the pass 20 + years taking part in their Pride steering group and parade attendance.

### **David Hope                    Full Time Union Rep at Wigan Council**

#### ***GMB***

My first Brach roll was Youth Officer then Equity Officer, when my Branch Secretary retired at the age of 26 and became the youngest Branch Secretary in the GMB Union. There was

nothing in the GMB around LGBT+ or Disability and has only come about by hard work and determination.

I have been a member of the GMB Union for over 40 years and always championed equalities as this is the backbone of any Union.

I have a hearing problem and am Dyslexic. The TUC and the GMB Union needs to get more members that have hidden disability's active.

We are now in a different world with COVIT and the challenge that bring us, so only by standing together we can make a difference.

I would be honoured to be the GMB Union nominee for the disablement seat on the TUC LGBT+ Committee.

**N. Khan**

**Teacher**

***NASUWT***

I've been teaching for 21 years and play an active role in my union, the NASUWT, regionally and nationally. As a Black, Muslim, Gay, Woman with a disability, I often have a unique position of intersectional understanding that gives an insight in my different roles. I have attended regional and national union conferences and have spoken on a wide range of motions, building my confidence to speak publicly.

I am proud to have represented NASUWT at TUC Black Workers and LGBT+ conferences which have widened my understanding of the issues faced in the wider movement and contributed to motions and debates. I am passionate about equality in all its guises and on solution-based strategies.

I am honoured to be offered the opportunity to share my unique voice and experience as a Black Muslim and Gay teacher to the work of the TUC LGBT+ Committee.

## Section D – Trans Members

(Two places, 3 nominations)

**Julia Georgiou**  
**Practitioner)**

**General Secretary (& P-T Change**

### ***NHBC SA***

I have been a union representative since 2000 and in 2020 I was proud to be elected as General Secretary of my union, the NHBC Staff Association. I was re-elected for a second three-year term in 2022. I was instrumental in pushing the NHBC SA, a single employer union, towards affiliation with the TUC and GFTU which was achieved in 2018.

I have actively served for four years on the LGBT+ Committee, and proudly proposed the LGBT+ Conference motion to Congress in 2022. I worked with the TUC Equalities Officers in collaboration with the CIPD on their Trans Equality and Inclusion Policy, forming transgender inclusion guidelines for employers and HR professionals.

I am proudly transgender and transitioned in 2011. I have actively promoted TUC policy and have shaped NHBC policy through our LGBT+ Network.

**Nathan Graham**

**HGV Driver**

### ***Unite the Union***

I'm a queer AFAB trans guy, a trade unionist and an activist from Glasgow. I've been actively involved with my own union's regional and national LGBT+ committees for several years now. I'm also an active member of the STUC's LGBT+ committee. Although I'm new to trade union activism, only joining my union's LGB+ committee about 6 years ago, I have been active in many other groups and within my community for many years which has given me a lot of experience in advocating for LGBT+ rights. I found a home in the trade union movement, and many like-minded comrades who I could work alongside to continue the fight for the rights of our community. Thank you for your consideration.

**Susan Greenwell**

**Train Driver**

### ***ASLEF***

I am an openly out MtF transgender train driver who transitioned over 24 years ago. I have represented ASLEF at the TUC LGBT+ conference on multiple occasions and previously sat on the TUC LGBT+ committee, even chairing conference once.

I have been a member of ASLEF for 44 years, active at local, regional and national level. I have sat on ASLEF's LGBT+ committee since its foundation, helping in the production of ASLEF's best practice guidelines for transgender workers.

I am a member of the Blyth Valley CLP and have represented ASLEF at the Labour Party National Policy Forum.

I feel the need for a strong voice on Trans Rights is greater now than ever on the Committee.

## **Section E – Young Members**

(Two places, 0 nominations)

## Section F – Bisexual Members

(Two places, 1 nomination)

**Denise Rayner**

**Universal Banker Expert**

### *Unite the Union*

I am a Bisexual and disabled female of mixed-race heritage. I joined the union in 2010 as a member and became a workplace rep for HSBC in 2012. Since then, I have become a Health and safety officer, an equalities officer and a branch secretary. I have also sat on many.

committees including disabled members and the black and Asian ethnic minorities (BAEM)

committees. I joined my regional LGBT+ committee in the London and Eastern representing the Finance and Legal members in 2017 and now I also sit on the national LGBT+ committee. I attend many pride events, Unite Rules and Policy conferences as well as Equality conferences.

I tackle workplace discrimination and bullying on a regular basis. I feel my experience and passion for equal rights and my fellow union members make me an ideal candidate and I feel I can make a difference.