

Nominations

**TUC LGBT+
Conference 2022**

Nominations

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Section A – General Seats

(14 places, 13 nominations)

Jenny Black – Local Government Officer

UNISON

My background is Local Government, my last substantive post being an Operational Manager in my council's Sport and Leisure Service. My portfolio included managing a range of leisure facilities and community health and well being projects. For the past 6 years I have been on full time release to my UNISON branch where I am Branch Chair and Equality Officer. I am also a workplace rep and support members in the community and voluntary sector. I have been a Co-chair of our regional LGBT+ Group and for the last 4 years have been a member of UNISON's National LGBT+ Committee. Within this committee I also sit on the Organising and Development Sub-Group, this has a specific work stream in relation to decisions made at our annual conference. I am also a former member of UNISON's Local Government Service Group Executive, the senior lay membership group for all Local Government members.

Phil Jones – Full time Health and Safety Representative, Finance Sector

Unite the Union

For the past 6 years I have been an active member of the TUC LGBT+ Workers Committee and have positively contributed to numerous campaigns and activities.

I am an experienced workplace and equalities representative having been a "shop steward" for over 30 years.

I am active in Unite's equalities and industrial structures at all levels - locally, regionally, nationally and internationally.

Currently Chair of Unite's National LGBT+ Member's committee - I often represent the union's equalities strands at various events.

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

I organise union involvement at regional and national LGBT+ pride events and at other LGBT+ equalities events such as fringe meetings, conferences, campaign stalls etc.

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

Jeff Sutton – GMB Branch Secretary

GMB

The cause of the LGBT+ community has always been one that I have championed. From my early days in London in the late seventies and eighties, I organised Charity nights for LGBT cause, was involved with the fledging London Pride, on the first Lambeth Council LGBT committee. All the time I spent travelling I would be involved in supporting the cause.

Living in Bristol I have got my own Branch to support Bristol Pride, funding the Cabaret stage, helping it become the big event it is today. Active in the SWTUC, in my Region always looking to help where needed.

Although many battles have been won there are still many to fight. Especially more resources for older/elderly LGBT+ people and more understanding of people like myself whom are living with HIV.

I am Branch Secretary of the Avon and Wessex Branch and on the GMB Regional and National Equality Forums.

Kacey De Groot - Teacher

NEU

16 years in secondary teaching including time as a Head of Department in Drama, and as Assistant Principal Leader of Learning. SSAT Accredited Lead Learning practitioner. Activist in the union for four years. Attended National conference twice speaking on both occasions. Equality Officer for Coventry District NEU. Co-Sec (Women) of the NEU Trans and Non-Binary Educators Network. Member of the Organising Forum for LGBT+ members for two years. Hosted and co-organised decolonising curriculum event during lockdown as well as trans and non-binary event during virtual pride. Delivered Transgender CPD for Lambeth NEU. NEU Strategy committee member: Policy Research & Campaigns Committee.

Neil Smale – Supermarket worker and delivery driver

USDAW

I currently work in store on fruit and veg but also deliver orders to customers' homes. Customer abuse and harassment of LGBT+ workers has been the top issue for a long while but this has been made worse by the coronavirus crisis and the additional duties placed on shop workers and delivery drivers. Whilst all workers in the sector have experienced an increase in abuse for LGBT+ workers this takes on the added dimension of homo, bi and transphobia. This is happening at a time when hate crime against LGBT+ people and communities is on the rise and safe spaces in and outside of work seem to be shrinking. Given the high numbers of LGBT+

workers in the retail sector it is important that we have continue to have a voice on the Committee and if re-elected I will do my best to raise the issues with the TUC.

Stephen F. J. 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.

Sarah Pitt – Postal Worker

Communication Workers Union

I am currently a Member of the TUC LGBT+ Committee and I am seeking a Second 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.

Saorsa-Amatheia Tweedale – Civil Servant

PCS

I have previously sat on the TUC LGBT Committee, attended six TUC LGBT Conferences, and I am currently PCS Y&H DWP Equality Officer, PCS LGBT+ national committee, National Trans rep for PCS Proud and its vice-chair, and a DWP National Diversity Ambassador.

I have a wealth of diversity experience and co-wrote a 2-day trans training package for union reps and delivered this within PCS. This has been successful and was shared with other unions to utilise.

I am an active member within my own trade union and have and will continue to speak on LGBT+ issues at our annual conference.

The TUC LGBT+ committee puts into action the collective will of conference for the betterment of the lives of our members. I want to use my skills and abilities to transform motions into action.

Claire Mullaly – IT Contractor

Prospect

I have been a dedicated member of the TUC LGBT+ committee for the last 4 years with full attendance at all meetings. In addition to being a trade union activist, I recently graduated in MA Politics. As part of my MA, I produced research on the trade union movement's vital role in LGBT+ rights with a case study on equal marriage in N. Ireland. I have worked on campaigns such as marriage equality in N. Ireland, LGBT+ asylum, international LGBT+ rights and trans rights. I attended the TUC LGBT+ leadership school in 2017 and spoke at TUC 2017 and TUC 2019 on the TUC LGBT+ Committee motions. I organise LGBT+ History Month events, write articles and blogs for my union and the TUC on LGBT+ rights and have spoken as trade unionist and an activist on LGBT+ liberation on panels, protests and at public events.

Martin Chivers – Course Officer

UCU

I am an academic-related member of staff in high education who has been involved in the national UCU LGBT+ committee over the past 8 years, moving motions at UCU's Congress, UCU's Equality Conference, and the TUC LGBT+ conference. On my union's committee we have been working to improve visibility and legal recognition for Non-Binary workers as well as reforming Chartermarks, fighting the roll back of LGBT+ legislation, and promoting LGBT+ research. Our radical positions on LGBT+ inclusion puts us in a strong position to work with and support unions on the committee in pushing the conversation forward, and getting the TUC to lead in demanding change in both the workplace and public life. I am a cis gay man, have worked in HE for 11 years, been an active member of UCU for those years, and am a proud socialist and trade unionist.

Darran Brown – Train Driver

ASLEF

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

Patrick Carberry – Firefighter

FBU

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

I am the 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 the current FBU Secretary in Bedfordshire.

I have attended every TUC LGBT+ Conferences 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, London Underground

RMT

Train Operator for London Underground 20 years and RMT member for over 21 years.

I am a RMT H&S rep and have been in this post for over 11 years, an active member at branch level, an attendee at RMT's LGBT+ Members conference and a long-standing member of the RMT LGBT+ Members Advisory Committee.

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 debate around national and international issues, particularly on LGBT+ rights, and sharing with other unions the battles of LGBT+ issues in the work place, such as hate crime. It would be an honour to continue on the committee.

Tigger Blaize – Actor

Equity

I'm an actor, and Vice Chair of Equity's LGBT+ Committee, and have sat on the TUC LGBT+ Committee for four years. Alongside acting I deliver trans awareness workshops, and provide consultancy to creative practitioners on trans inclusivity and casting, all of which dovetails with my union work. Equity's "Casting Guide for Entertainment Professionals Working with LGBT+ Performers" was a piece of work I led on, with the excellent support of my union. It is about to celebrate its first update. For the TUC I was an advisor on their award winning campaign film for trans rights, I have spoken at a Parliament fringe event, and am on the working party for the "Safe to Be Me" conference. It may not surprise you that I am happy to speak up, and speak out on LGBT+ matters, but I'm also really keen to listen, and to keeping moving forward with positive solutions.

Section B – Black Members

(Two places, one nomination)

Taranjt 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 misogyny 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).

Section C – Disabled Members

(Two places, two nominations)

Eileen Best – Mental Health Social Worker

UNISON

I've been an activist in UNISON and previously NALGO for over 30 years. I've held various positions ranging from shop steward to regional representative on UNISON's national LGBT+ committee.

I continue to be the International officer in UNISON's North West region's LGBT+ committee and continue to represent them on UNISON's national LGBT+ committee.

I am a Mental Health Social Worker currently working in the North West; which gives me a special interest in the impact austerity is having on mental health, as well as the impact that isolation can bring to our community.

I also have a keen interest in International issues and have been a part of union delegations to Poland and Spain for study tours, as well as taking part in an ILGA conference in Italy.

I would relish the opportunity to continue to sit on the TUC LGBT+ Committee and continue my contribution to our LGBT+ community.

David Hope – Full Time Union Rep at Wigan Council

GMB

My first Branch role was Youth Officer then Equality Officer, when my Branch Secretary retired at the age of 26 and I 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 back bone 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 disabilities active. We need to focus on Mental Health as working from home and loneliness have been with us for nearly two years. We are now in a different world with COVID and the challenges that brings us, like long covid So only by standing together we can make a difference.

Section D – Trans Members

(Two places, two nominations)

Susan Greenwell – Train Driver

ASLEF

I am an openly out MtF transgender train driver who transitioned over 23 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 42 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.

Julia Georgiou – Complex Claims Manager

NHBC Staff Association

I have been General Secretary of my Union for two years and have been an active rep for over 20 years. I am an active member on my employer's LGBT+ Network and have been an active member of the TUC LGBT+ Committee in a general seat for 3 years, working to achieve greater protection for LGBT+ workers across industry. At last year's conference I led on the notion highlighting the issues faced by those with intersex conditions, organising a fringe and leading the motion before conference. I am a trans woman and will always fight to represent the trans voice and further trans rights, awareness and understanding.

Section E – Young Members

(Two places, one nomination)

Dean Ismay – IT Support

GMB

I'm Dean, and I've been a member of GMB for nearly ten years. I became active in GMB when I joined Asda and became a union rep. I represented members at a local and national level. I became active within the equality strands, and I am currently the National Secretary to the Young Workers' network. I ensure the network is efficient and follows through on actions.

I am openly gay, and I am involved with the LGBT+ group in my region, delivering campaigns to our members and attending local pride. I am the equalities officer in my branch, and I set up a local link between the GMB branch and the pride event.

In 2018, I became disabled and have recently started to help set up a regional disabled workers group. Throughout my experiences, I have always been transparent with members, and I think this is key to any role.

Section F – Bisexual Members

(Two places, one 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.