

2023 TUC Women's Conference

Nominations

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Section A

14 places 17 nominations received

Davina Brown

**Contract and Commissioning Officer
at Croydon Council**

GMB

SUPPORTING STATEMENT

I am standing for women's committee as I feel I can make a positive impact.

I'm a rep for GMB in my local government branch and have supported members with grievances and restructures. As chair of Race Equality Network (REN) within my council, I advocate for 400+ members on issues that affect them at work. For this work, I won Pride of Croydon 2022 for outstanding contribution.

I have a passion for addressing inequality and use data to support my points. I believe in action not words. I would prioritise action planning ensuring that the impact is measured and reviewed.

My values include justice, resilience, and freedom, I have a strong belief in equal opportunity for all.

I have twenty years local government experience, and I currently commission high quality services that provide positive outcomes for residents.

I welcome the opportunity to a part of positive change.

Mairead Canavan

Teacher

National Education Union

SUPPORTING STATEMENT

I am self-nominating for this position because women's representation in the union has always been a big focus of mine, and I have had some success in effecting change over the last 6 months. At Wales council AGM I moved a motion stating that 50% of council officers should be women. There were at the time, no women in these positions in Wales even though many do put themselves forward for election. The motion passed and was sent to full executive where the quota was increased to be more representative and now 2/3 of officer positions must be women at all Regional and Wales councils.

At conference Cymru I moved another motion seeking better representation for women at meetings and conferences. An excellent debate was won by a number of women speaking in favour. There is still a lot of work to do and I am up for the challenge.

Sian Caulfield

National Officer

Chartered Society of Physiotherapy

SUPPORTING STATEMENT

I have been engaged in the trade union movement for 12 years. I have worked in a variety of rep and trade union roles in education, local government, and health. When working in local government in 2010, I became active in my UNISON branch, including helping to secure engagement during the 2011 pensions strike. In 2013, I began working for UNISON in local government before moving to an Organiser role with my current employer, the CSP. My work here has enabled me to gain a significant understanding of healthcare and the monumental issues facing women workers. This includes witnessing the impacts of chronic underfunding in the public sector, persistent and extensive workplace sexual harassment and a pandemic. As National Officer, I lead on equality, diversity and inclusion and represent the CSP externally with groups such as the TUC equality officers networks, NHS Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion Group, and Amnesty International.

Joanna De Groot

University Lecturer

University and College Union

SUPPORTING STATEMENT

It is a pleasure and honour to put myself forward as UCU's candidate for election to the TUC Women's Committee. I am keen to share UCU's experience of campaigning on sexual violence, on gender pay inequity, on insecure work, and on gender aspects of the current economic crisis. My local work on intersectional gender pay equity and on sex/gender violence in my own branch and workplace at York, like my participation in UCU's Women's and Equality Committees, in our NEC, and in UK pay negotiations gives me knowledge of and insight into these key issues. It has also given me valuable experience of joint work with other unions. I am enthusiastically committed to making the best possible use of these assets to contribute to the work of the TUC Women's Committee to benefit the varied women members of our movement.

Sophie Flood

Senior Conductor – East Midlands Railway

National Union of Rail, Maritime and Transport Workers

SUPPORTING STATEMENT

Sophie Flood has been a trade unionist since she was aged 27. When she started on the railways as a First Class Customer Host she immediately joined the RMT and has been a member for over 7 years. She then later progressed into her current role as a Safety Critical trained Senior Conductor.

Sophie was honoured to be elected Health and Safety Representative in May 2022. She has recently completed her stage one Health & Safety Reps course with the RMT. She is passionate about the health and well-being of her members and represents these needs to her employer encouraging changes in work practices.

Sophie is also passionate about the role of women in the union and the role in her workplace. Sophie hopes to be on the TUC Women's Committee to broaden her experiences and meet other like-minded women across different industries.

Jackie Green

Civil Servant

Public and Commercial Services Union

SUPPORTING STATEMENT

I've been the chair of the PCS National Women's Forum for two years. I'm the chair of PCS International Committee. I'm one of the PCS National Vice Presidents. I'm the President of the Ministry of Justice and lead of equality for my department.

I'm responsible for educating, raising awareness and campaigning on issues facing our women members in the workplace such as on creating safe spaces for women and encouraging women to get more involved in union activity.

I've produced a menopause model policy, progressed the women's bargaining agenda and continue to challenge discrimination and bias in all its forms and campaign for gender equality.

I would bring my extensive union experience to the TUC women's committee. As a proud, intersectional woman, I'm passionate about supporting other women and fighting for the rights of women; to be given equal opportunities and access to decent pay and fair terms and conditions.

Katie Harwood

Professional Support Officer

Royal College of Podiatry

SUPPORTING STATEMENT

Katie first became a union representative in 2002 eventually becoming Chair of her NHS trust's Joint negotiating committee in 2010. She became a full-time officer for The Royal College of Podiatry in 2013. She is passionate about representing members and their issues. She sits on the College's Equality, Diversity and Inclusivity committee and has brought equality and diversity issues to the fore in the union and has implemented Equality and Diversity Training for all staff and union representatives within the College and has championed equality and women's issues across the organisation including menopause, domestic violence and period poverty. She was first elected to the TUC Women's Committee in 2019 and hopes to continue in the role for a fifth year.

Jane Jones

Service Team Support

Union of Shop, Distributive and Allied Workers

SUPPORTING STATEMENT

I have worked in the Tesco store in Mold, North Wales for 19 years and joined Usdaw on day one in the job.

I sit on the Tesco National Forum and Usdaw's National Executive Council. In 2021, I was elected Usdaw President.

In my role as an Usdaw rep and Team Support in store I see the struggles women have day to day juggling going out to work, with looking after children and other family members. I am also acutely aware of the current massive squeeze on women's incomes and the impact this is having on their health and well-being.

It is vital that the TUC and unions continue to campaign for decent pay, decent jobs and genuine flexibility for working women.

I would be delighted to be re-elected to the TUC Women's Committee for a second term so the voice of retail workers continues to be heard.

Jackie Marshall

Senior Prison Officer

Prison Officers Association

SUPPORTING STATEMENT

I have been a POA member and activist since joining the Prison Service in 1990. I have held various positions on local committees and have been a member of the POA National

Executive Committee since 2013 being the first female elected to a national position in over 15 years.

I am the POA lead for women and have recently organised and run a Women's Workshop. As public sector workers hidden behind a wall or a fence we have unprecedented challenges but in addition, working in a male orientated environment, our women members can often feel overlooked and unheard. This is something we can and will overcome. I continue to empower our female members and encourage them to speak out about the problems they face as all women should.

If elected I will help to challenge the law on women's issues and develop policies that will support all women.

Margaret McKee

Catering Assistant

UNISON

SUPPORTING STATEMENT

I have been a union representative for more than 35 years, and now the branch secretary of my local branch, Royal Victoria Hospital in Belfast, where I work as a catering assistant. I was delighted to be elected president of UNISON in 2017.

I was very proud to be awarded the TUC women's gold badge in 2016 for my work in the trade union movement and in my community, working with the women victims of domestic abuse and women in the prison system.

It is vital to address the issues facing our women members currently such as the cost-of-living crisis and domestic violence. This proves we still have a lot of work to do in the workplace and our communities.

I will work tirelessly to ensure safer workplaces and working conditions for all workers, and to encourage workers of all ages and backgrounds to join our union movement.

Deborah Reay

Train Driver

Associated Society of Locomotive Engineers and Firemen

SUPPORTING STATEMENT:

I am a tube driver on London Underground and have been an activist of ASLEF for 20 years.

I am the national chair of ASLEF's Women's Representative Committee and also hold the positions of Local Rep, Branch Secretary and Appeal's Committee Member. I have represented ASLEF at the ITF, ETF, RMTU and Croatian train drivers conference.

I have attended WTUC for 16 years. Some of our motions have been considered controversial but they have always been designed to give women the same rights as men.

Train driving is still a very male dominated industry, but it is gratifying to see more women becoming drivers and ASLEF activists however we still have a long way to go.

It would be an honour to continue representing women on the WTUC committee to help achieve equality and stop the elitist attitudes that are still prevalent in some industries.

Jean Rogers

Actor

Equity

SUPPORTING STATEMENT

I've been a union member all my working life, passionately active on gender equality, women's empowerment and fighting racism and bullying. Since 1994, as an Equity Councillor and Vice President (10yrs), I've campaigned against female stereotyping, sexism and ageism, worked internationally with the Federation of Actors (FIA) on work opportunities and improving Work/Life Balance in the Arts sector.

I gave evidence to the Harriet Harman Commission on Older Women in Media and Public Life and the BBC's Serving All Ages Survey, am currently a member of the TUC Women's Committee, and was awarded the TUC Women's Gold Badge in 2017.

My work as an actress and presenter has shown me the importance of Education and the Arts to the mental wellbeing and health of the community, so often a route out of poverty. I continue to campaign for an understanding of the damaging nature of female and male stereotyping.

Jean Sharrocks

BT engineer

Communication Workers' Union

I joined the CWU 35 years ago when I joined BT and became active 20 years ago representing fellow engineers. I was Equality Officer and Chair of Middlesbrough Engineering Branch until we merged with North East Branch when I then became Assistant Secretary and still hold this post.

I've been Regional Equality Secretary and Regional Women's Committee Chair.

I am the NEC Women's Lead for the CWU (Telecoms) and before this Chair of the Women's Advisory Committee for 8 years where I also chaired Women's conference.

I have attended and spoken at General Conference, TUC conferences and World UNI conference. I currently sit on the TUC Women's Committee and have done for a number of years.

Alison Spencer-Scragg

**National Officer for Equalities,
with responsibility for women**

Unite the Union

SUPPORTING STATEMENT

As National Officer for Equalities with responsibility for Women, Alison Spencer-Scragg is dedicated to:

Devising strategies to encourage the greater participation and leadership of women

Working with colleagues on key campaigns: equal pay, preventing gender based violence, rights for union equality reps

Lobbying for all women and ensuring the trade union movement is the progressive force for change.

In seventeen years working at Unite, she has carried out the roles of:

Union Organiser: building campaigns and collective issue based organising including gaining recognition within large manufacturing sites.

Union Officer: representing, negotiating and building a powerful workplace union, most recently in the Passenger sector by co-ordinating pay claims

Political Officer: building alliances and working across organisations for the benefit of working people including People's Assembly and Hope not Hate

She worked in the civil service as a PSC union rep at the Tribunal Service.

Jacqueline Thomas

**Senior Administrator,
Occupational Health**

Community

SUPPORTING STATEMENT

My name is Jacqueline Thomas. I have worked for Tata Steel at Llanwern Newport since 2005, been a trade union member since I was 18 and a shop steward since I was 20. I have been a member of Community's National Executive Committee as a women's representative since 2012, was Community's Vice President in 2016 and President in 2017 when I chaired

Community's National Conference. I was the first woman to sit on the Strip Trade Board, which I then chaired. I sit on the European Works Council for Tata Steel Europe. I was Mayor for my hometown of Tredegar, Aneurin Bevan's hometown in 2015/2017 and sit on the Welsh Labour Party's NEC. I work with Women's groups in my local Community and in the Steel Industry supporting and progressing Women's Health initiatives and promoting best practice to employers.

Kat Lord Watson

Teacher

NASUWT

SUPPORTING STATEMENT

I am currently serving a second term on the NASUWT Women's Committee and have been recently appointed to our newly established National Sexual Harassment Task Group. Additionally, I have sat on the NASUWT Scotland Equality Advisory group for the past four years. I wish to serve on the TUC Women's Committee and further the work of promoting fairness, equality of opportunity, empowerment and wellbeing for women.

I am a passionate teacher and keen activist, actively participating in the work of my union as a member of the Scottish Executive Council, and I take great pride in representing my union as a member of the delegation for STUC Conferences. I have represented NASUWT at the STUC Women's Conference for the past two years, as well as the STUC Black Workers Conference.

I hope my activism will inspire women to take up trade union work, and build links between different communities of people.

Hailey Willington

**Musician/Teacher/ Equity,
Diversity, & Inclusion Leader**

Musicians' Union

SUPPORTING STATEMENT

I am a long-time member of the Musicians' Union and was elected to the MU Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Committee in 2022. In addition to being a member of the MU Women's Network, I am also a member of the Labour Party. I am a violinist and trained teacher and currently work as Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Leader for Merton Music Foundation, a music education charity in Southwest London. In my role, I work closely with the gender equality charity Lifting Limits as well as Black Lives in Music. I am passionate about gender equality and believe that both the trade union movement and working with young people are key to meaningful large-scale societal change. I am proud to be on the front line of this work. I would be honoured to be elected to the TUC Women's Committee.

Section B

4 places, 4 nominations received

(SEATS FOR BLACK WOMEN TO BE ELECTED)

Ajaz Aslam

Teacher

NASUWT

SUPPORTING STATEMENT

I am a passionate teacher, a keen activist and a very proud member of NASUWT.

I joined NASUWT in 2000 and have been a School Co-rep and an Equalities Officer for my local association, Southwark.

As a member serving on the NASUWT National Black Teachers Advisory Committee I have been able to engage and promote Equalities agenda for inclusiveness. Besides attending and speaking at NASUWT National Annual Conferences, Black Teachers and Women Teachers Consultation Conferences, I have also participated in a number of TUC Black Workers, TUC Women Workers Conferences and very recently at the TUC National Annual Conference in October 2022. Being an Asian Muslim Woman Teacher, I totally understand the paramount importance of true equality in a diverse society. I am confident my experience and dedication to equality will prove to be positive for the Section B TUC Women's Committee for the period of 2023-2024.

Patricia Davies

Bus Driver

Unite the Union

SUPPORTING STATEMENT

I am a woman who happens to be black and a bus driver for Transport for London. I've worked for Arriva Bus Company for over 27 years, providing services for the community and the wider general public.

I've been a member of the Unite for 27 years and have proactively contributed to bringing about positive changes for our passenger industrial sector within Unite.

I have campaigned for equalities locally, regionally and nationally, led our Regional Industrial Sector and National Sector campaign on women's issues included period poverty and raising awareness on menopause, and appropriate uniform for all women bus drivers.

I am an active representative within my union Unite and sit on a several committees such as:

- Executive Council member for Transport
- Regional Committee member
- National/Regional BAEM Committee member
- National/Regional Women's Committee
- Vice-Chair for Regional Women's Committee
- National Workplace Equality Rep
- SERTUC Regional committee

Sujata Patel

Team Leader

Union of Shop, Distributive and Allied Workers

SUPPORTING STATEMENT

I have worked in the retail sector for most of my life. I've been active in my Union and its equality structures at a local and a national level for over 15 years.

I am a CLP Trade Union Liaison Officer and Disability Officer.

I have always been passionate about highlighting the issues faced by women working in the retail sector. The retail sector, already in crisis, continues to face an uncertain future with women and Black workers continuing to be at the sharp end of redundancies and reorganisations. I am committed to supporting the greater involvement of Black members, specifically Black women, in my Union. I'm currently involved as a member of my regional forum in planning a 2023 regional get-together.

I very much hope I will be re-elected so that I can continue to make sure the TUC hears from low paid women working in the retail sector.

Davena Rankin

**International Policy and Governance
Manager, Glasgow Caledonian University**

UNISON

SUPPORTING STATEMENT

I've been active in UNISON since 1999. I'm branch secretary at Glasgow Caledonian University (GCU) and a member of UNISON's higher education service group executive and NEC.

As branch secretary, I've fought off redundancies threatening our mainly female workforce; campaigned against pension changes and was involved in negotiations leading to GCU becoming the first accredited living wage university in Scotland. Last year, I successfully delivered a strike mandate and negotiated improvements to T&Cs. I'm a member of the GCU Equal Pay working group and vice chair of the Tackling Racism steering group.

I've a long history of campaigning against discrimination in all forms and have been active in UNISON, the Scottish TUC's and TUC's equality structures for many years. I'm proud to have been the first Black chair of the STUC women's committee. I chair UNISON's Scottish Women's Committee and have previously chaired our National Women's Committee and conference.

Section C

1 place, 2 nomination received

(SEAT FOR A DISABLED WOMAN TO BE ELECTED)

Gwylan Brinkworth

**Branch Secretary - GMB South Wales
Police Staff Branch.**

GMB

SUPPORTING STATEMENT

For over ten years Gwylan has been a workplace representative and Branch Secretary. As a woman living with a number of hidden disabilities Gwylan campaigns for awareness around all disabilities, she is a Neurodiversity Advocate in her workplace and is learning British Sign Language.

A member of the GMB Wales & South-West Regional Council and Committee, the Regional Equality Forum and is the regional Women's strand lead, she is the Regional Women's Reserved Seat on the GMB Central Executive Council and the regional lead on the GMB taskforce for Positive Change/Positive Change Forum.

Gwylan organises around White Ribbon Day and GMB's Domestic Abuse Charter, a trainer for the GMB Menopause Toolkit and represents the GMB on the Sexual Harassment in the Police Service working group.

Gwylan is seeking re-election to the TUC Women's Committee, for 2023-24.

Sharon Theresa Calvert

Teacher

NASUWT

SUPPORTING STATEMENT

As an active Trade Unionist since 19, a special needs teacher and someone with hidden disabilities, I am an active campaigner for disability awareness.

As a National Executive Member and Vice Chair of the NASUWT Equal Opportunities Committee I have campaigned for Long Covid to be recognised as a disability and for training on ableism and raising awareness of neurodiversity. I have been Chair of the NASUWT Women's Advisory Committee for the past two years.

I am also my CLP Officer for Women and Equalities where I actively campaign for better access and understanding of issues affecting those living with disability.

I wish to continue to serve on the TUC Women's Committee to promote fairness and equality of opportunities for all women and to help highlight the intersectional issues facing women with disabilities.

Section D

1 place, 2 nominations received

(SEAT FOR A LESBIAN, BISEXUAL OR TRANS WOMAN TO BE ELECTED)

Bridget Corcoran

Civil Servant

Public and Commercial Services Union

SUPPORTING STATEMENT

Society discriminates against all women; sexism and misogyny are everyday occurrences. By coming together in these forums, we gain strength, develop policy and strategy to challenge for all women. It is an honour to be part of TUC Women's Committee and I would love to continue.

It is vital we recognise the intersectional pressures on women and value the LGBT+ voice within our campaigns. I am on the PCS NEC and involved with policy negotiation in PCS DWP Group for Equality and am deeply involved with the fight for rights within my LGBT+ community.

At my first WTUC Conference, I was struck by the intelligence and support women give to each other. More than ever, we need people who can broaden our union movement, recognising the power women have collectively. I am keen to demonstrate my lifelong commitment and enthusiasm for this cause.

Hailey Maxwell

Training Co-ordinator, Rape Crisis Scotland

GMB

SUPPORTING STATEMENT

I am a current member of the TUC Women's Committee and I'm currently GMB's national Women's Lead, working with GMB sisters across the UK to make work better for women. I have spent most of my working life supporting women impacted by violence, abuse and inequality and am committed to using the power of trade unions to advance women's safety, dignity and economic empowerment. I'm also dedicated to addressing issues of

misogyny and gender-based violence within the union and other democratic institutions. I'm an activist with Betterthanzero working against precarious work and the exploitation of young, ununionized workers in Scotland. I'm also really passionate about promoting and building awareness of the history, culture and values of solidarity and trade unions within the community through developing an active strike solidarity group in my local area and through a project called Workers Stories which collected the stories of workers through the pandemic.

Section E

1 place, 0 nominations recieved

(SEAT FOR A YOUNG MEMBER TO BE ELECTED)