

Newsletter for the Community and Voluntary Organisations Branch

UNISON LGBT+ Conference 2019



Kim has been an active member of our branch for several years and represents us on the Regional LGBT+ committee and involved in the organisation of the LGBT Alliance teams London legal walk. In the picture above Kim is part obscured by the Zebra crossing pole.

Kim was a delegate from the Branch at the 2019 LGBT+ Conference;

"I attended conference this year in Bournemouth it was very cold but as usual an enjoyable event. I spoke on several motions as always, the most controversial was on the Ethical Procurement, I supported the motion but informed Unison that some smaller charities although they support the aims of Unison and LGBT+ and low paid workers abroad are not always in a position to use ethical procurement due to funding cuts and finances. I said that we cannot put some charities in the position where they lose a member of staff, just so they can buy ethically.

I also spoke on two motions that I believe should have been connected, mental health and education in schools understanding LGBT+ issues, the suicide rate is very high among young LGBT+ people, so the support for more mental health resources and the education in schools complement each other.

[Read Kim's full report here...](#)

Pay in the Voluntary Sector

Pay is of course the main reason we all go to work and unfortunately in the public sector is often well below the cost of living. UNISON works hard to improve pay and working conditions for our members although the struggle is harder these days. Often it is about protecting the pay members already have rather than increasing their pay.

One example we worked on in this Branch last year was Marie Curie who were looking at removing pay enhancements for maintenance and domestic staff working unsocial hours. Through a long running campaign we have managed to push this into the long grass for now saving our members thousands of pounds a year. If it resurfaces we will continue to fight for them to keep this.

Elsewhere we are putting in pay claims for our members where we have recognition.

One good example is MS Society where local reps secured improvements for members including a % increase in pay and an improved maternity pay policy. [Read more here.](#)

If you are interested in finding out how to put a pay claim in with your employer [contact us.](#)



Find us on twitter
[UNISON CVOB@CvobUnison](#)

Violence at Work – UNISON seeks guarantees from employers

UNISON is approaching the country's largest voluntary and community organisations and requesting them to sign up to the UNISON [Violence at Work Charter.](#)

The Branch is seeking to work locally in London on this issue. So if you are interested in organising around the issue of violence at work and/or are interested in UNISON approaching your employer about signing up to the charter then please contact the branch via info@unisoncvob.org.uk

UNISON COMMUNITY AND VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS BRANCH AGM

Wednesday 4th March 6.00pm

UNISON Centre, 130 Euston Rd, London NW1 2AY

All members welcome and encouraged to attend.

Why should you attend? [Go here to find out more.](#)

UNISON CVO Branch

Branch Committee in place!

In October 2019 the Branch held an interim AGM. This has been long awaited after the Branch moved into regional supervision in summer 2015. The AGM last year was a great success with a fairly full compliment of officers elected. The current branch officers are;

Jordan Creed— Branch Secretary
Emilyn Hutchinson—Branch Chair
Tara Topteagarden—Treasurer
Patricia Taylor—Vice Chair
Tony Cisse—Communications Officer
Veronica Leacock— Health and Safety (Job Share)
Patricia Taylor—Health and Safety (Job Share)
Valerie Townsend—Black Members Officer (Share)
Chineze Eze —Black Members Officer (Share)
Joe Hepworth—Disabled Members Officer
Tom Harrison—LGBT+ Members Officer
Yvonne Maxwell—Women Members Officer

It has been great to have so many people on board keen to take the branch forward to a brighter future for our members.

We have already had a number of committee member nominees for the upcoming AGM on the 4th March. If you are interested in finding out more about getting involved please contact the branch as we still have the following positions to fill;

Treasurer
Lifelong Learning Co Ordinator
Membership Officer
Young members Officer (must be under 27)
Welfare Officer
Equality Co Ordinator
Women members officer
LGBT+ members officer
Disabled members officer
Black members officer

GET INVOLVED. GET ACTIVE

UNISON is organising in the community and voluntary sector to improve terms, conditions and pay for our members. Elected workplace representatives (also known as Stewards) are at the heart of this; If you are interested in becoming a Steward then Branch and Region staff are able to provide you support and development and we can be contacted via email;

info@unisoncvob.org.uk

[To find out more about how you can get involved click here.](#)

Update Your Details!

UNISON is organising in the community and voluntary sector to improve terms, conditions and pay for our members.

In order to represent our members as effectively as possible we need your up to date contact details e.g. Email address, home address, mobile number and most important your Employer!

Many members fail to update their details when for example they move house or change employer. This means missing out on important communication relevant to you.

[The Easiest way to update them is here.](#)

UNISON Disabled Members Conference 2019



Unfortunately this year due to several issues the CVO Branch were unable to register delegates at the Disabled members conference. However we did manage to send two visitors Toby Morrison, pictured above and Patricia Taylor. Despite the difficulties around attendance overall they enjoyed the experience of taking part in a UNISON conference involving issues important to them.

[Please find more details, from Toby, here about motions discussed and issues to consider from the conference.](#)

Patricia outlines her experience; "The conference hall was overwhelming, guest speakers shared all the hard work they achieved over 2019, motions were discussed and passed and a number of members took the conference stand and gave very emotional accounts of their personal experiences leaving the conference floor in tears. We had a great time, the energy was amazing we learnt about how hard Unison has been campaigning to support disabled members, networked with other members and represented CVO."

[Patricia's full report can be found here.](#)