

National Black Members Conference

31st January – 2nd February 2020

Introduction

The NBM Conference had been held over a 3 days period in Bournemouth International Centre (BIC).

From the branch there had been no other visitors, apart from myself. However there had been 2 other delegates who also attended the conference. In addition to the above there had been other members and delegates from the wider Greater London areas.

The motion submitted by some members from the Greater London region had been on matters like:

1. Unite Against State Racism
2. Kashmir Crisis
3. Stop Xenophobic

As I was not part of the voting process, I had been unsure which of the motions had been supported by this branch. I would assume that my colleagues who had voting rights would be able to ascertain this information for the purpose of this report.

Body

There had been a number of great, inspiring and motivating speakers during the conference, Dave Prentis (General Secretary), Josie Bird (Unison President), Carol Sewell (Chair of the NBMC), Katrina Ffrench (CEO Stopwatch) and Yvonne Green are to mention a few.

Regional Meeting – for Greater London had been of a great interest, with good and thought provoking debates and discussions that had taken place around supporting local branches, challenges around recruitment and current membership numbers.

The first workshop that I had attended had been on “The Knife Crime”, which had been very informative, the evidence demonstrated the full nature and its impact of such crimes for example knife crime is a symptom of a much wider, complex problem, too many young people are suffering “a poverty of hope”

facing a future with no qualifications, no job prospects and no role models. The pressures on current resources such as police, public health awareness together with other public health bodies revealed that knife crime is reaching a new high and as a result public services are finding it a challenge to manage the crises.

The second workshop that I had attended had been on “Hidden Disabilities” this again had been equally interesting – discussions and debates had taken place around the misunderstanding around disabilities, Dyslexia and what this real means for people, mental health “the reality and looking ahead”, effects of migraines and head aches and how this can be measured as a hidden disability are just a few examples. Employees and their right under the Equality Acts had also been discussed in detailed, building on confidence and raising awareness amongst members had also been key.

There had been no self-organised meeting that I attended.

On this occasion there had been no motions that I spoke about.

There had been discussions on the international motion “Kashmir Crisis”, except this one there had been little debate on other motions presented as members clearly accepted or declined the proposal.

On this occasion there had been no discussion which I had voted for.

Conclusion

A vibrant, information packed, diverse and energetic conference a “must attend”. A conference that touches on real issues that really matters to people. A good choice of active and engaging workshops to suits the audience.

A fun and full pack days at the conference, would advise future delegates to network with others to the maximum, make your own notes for reference purpose, be prepared to engage and participate and to give you the heads up that they may be a social event that you can attend if you choose to.

A brilliant time at the conference, would like to speak at the conference, if I get another opportunity to attend a future one.