



# National Newsletter



No.14 Winter 2022-23

## Annual General Meeting

We had a highly successful AGM in October with election of a new committee. Many thanks to everybody who attended AGM and special thanks to Scottish secretary Tracey Dalling who addressed the meeting. We laid out our plans for a very productive year ahead. All general and Women seats on the committee were filled as well as the reserved seats for bisexual, trans and disabled officers. Following AGM one of our committee members has moved to a new role and her seat has become vacant. We would welcome nominations for Black members officer, or the women's seat. If anyone would like to be considered, please submit expressions of interest to [j.millar@unison.co.uk](mailto:j.millar@unison.co.uk)

## National LGBT+ Conference

We had a very successful LGBT+ Conference in Edinburgh in November and were delighted to introduce UNISON Scottish Secretary Tracey Dalling, and Right Honourable Robert Aldridge Lord Provost of Edinburgh who addressed delegates at our civic reception.

This was followed on the Saturday by a ceilidh dance and we thank all branches who generously donated towards the event.



## Gender Recognition Reform Bill

There was an overwhelming flood in of support ahead of debate when 60+ LGBTI+ organisations signed a letter uniting in support of the Gender Recognition Reform Bill. The letter was signed by over 60+ LGBTI+ national orgs, sports orgs, academic orgs, political orgs, pride groups, health orgs, education orgs, union groups and many more. We were happy to see the unwavering support of the LGBTI+ community from across Scotland. The Bill passed through Scottish Parliament with very few changes with cross party support.



However our delight was promptly saddened by the actions of the Westminster Governments decision to use a Section 35 Order to try to block Gender Recognition Reform. This is a dark day for democracy and trans rights. We will continue to support any action to ensure the legislation gains royal ascent. Please provide your support for this Bill through branches, motions and by signing online petitions.

## Regional Convenors and National Rep Meetings

Your Regional Convenors and National Reps continue to meet with our counterparts across the UK to discuss work ongoing in our areas and to set out our action plan for the year ahead.

With many events being face to face again we expect that Pride events will be happening across the country. We will keep you updated of any events in your area.

Plans continue to be discussed around national LGBT+ conference which this year will be in Liverpool. We hope that Branches will submit motions this year and are happy to provide support in doing so.

## ILGA Conference 2022

We sent two delegates to ILGA Europe conference which was held in Sofia in October. The theme for the 2022 ILGA-Europe conference was: **'Shaping the World to Come'**. We are at a moment in history when the world is going through profound change on so many levels. With climate change, mass migration, the rise of right-wing populist forces and the exploitation of the digital world, politics have become ever more polarised and divided, based on the shaping of carefully constructed narratives rather than facts. Amid this, the stakes are high for the rights, freedom and equality of marginalised groups.



Our place at the table in shaping the world to come is essential, but there are questions we need to ask ourselves as we go forward. How do we secure our place at the table? How do we ensure those who are never given a place at that table are included in shaping our world? How we continue to be empowered in solidarity and alliance, and how do we continue to empower others, so that the LGBTI movement is core to a better future for all. UNISON is an essential part of ILGA, and we must continue to ensure our voice is heard in shaping the future, we will continue to work with our international colleagues to address issues of international importance.

## Year of Black Workers



2023 will be Year of Black Workers and our committee will continue to work closely with the Scottish Black Members Committee to do whatever we can to help promote this campaign and celebrate our colleagues in any way we can. We have multiple intersections and many of our LGBT+ colleagues will be Black. This is an important campaign and an essential part of our equality agenda.

## Upcoming Dates of importance

### February

LGBT+ History Month

Trans Ally Training online 28<sup>th</sup> Feb ask branch to attend  
(Closing date for nominations 21<sup>st</sup> Feb)

### April

6<sup>th</sup> International Asexuality Day

26<sup>th</sup> Lesbian Visibility Day

### March

LGBT Officer + Contact Training TBC

31<sup>st</sup> March Trans Day of Visibility

## Policy Weekend

Your regional committee members will be attending our annual policy weekend in February to discuss all matters of importance and to draw up our action plan for the coming year. We are delighted to be joined by Christina McKelvie MSP, Minister for equalities and older people and Solomon Bright from UNITY. We will be discussing LGBT+ asylum seekers and refugees, and the Scottish Government plans for the coming year. We have also been approached by some intersex members and will draw up some plans for meetings online to better understand our members concerns locally. We look forward to a productive weekend, where we bring forward decisions at national LGBT+ conference for building our workplan for 2023.

## **OUT IN UNISON**

'Out in UNISON' is only published three times a year, but you can get monthly updates direct to your inbox by signing up for our LGBT e-bulletin at

[unison.org.uk/out](https://unison.org.uk/out)

## **Contact and Information**

**Facebook Group – Unison Scotland LGBT (ask to join private group)**

**Twitter - @UNISONScotlandLGBT**