

ANNETTE HESLOP

for NEC Black Members Female Seat

Membership Number: 172474

Branch Number: 03375



Dear Colleague,

My name is Annette Heslop I am a Black member and have been a UNISON representative for a very long time.

I am a Nurse and have worked in the NHS for over 30 years. I am putting myself forward for the NEC, as I want to be a voice for members and self-organisation.

I have seen a lot of inequality in the union and in the workplace. I am a Branch secretary, Staff side secretary, Staff Governor in my Organisation.

I am a Co-Chair of the Regional Black Members Committee; I sit on the National Black Members Committee and on the National Women's committee. I am also on the Nursing and Midwifery Occupational group committee.

I was part of the WRES Frontline Workers Programme, when it was first introduced, in the NHS. I have a passion to strive for Equality for all. The Greater London Region has been instrumental on working on Challenging Racism in the Workplace, we need to stamp out discrimination at all levels.

In my organisation we have put on training regarding our Organisation becoming Anti-racist, the training has started, and it is going to be rolled out to all managers. The White Allies programme was also something else that our Trust had implemented, this started off with six of our Senior managers. As the co-chair of our BME network these training programmes were made possible. The Trust is now having open conversations about Race.

I am very committed to the work of self-organisation, and have gone to Branches to help start Black, SOG.

I was asked to attend a Branch away day and do a presentation on how to set up SOG, and how the Branch could be more active in the union.

As a Black worker I want to be able to be a voice for all and I feel that the NEC will give me that opportunity.

This year is going to be the Year of the Black workers, I am on the working group that has organised a good programme of events, there is promotional materials that can be used our theme is to be establishing a legacy to generate change. We are asking that Branches, regions, and self-organised groups promote the Year of the Black workers 2023.

I work very closely with all self-organised groups; intersectionality is key to equality and having an inclusive union. Covid 19 has had an impact on society, with regards to our mental health and physical health.

There are members that have experienced long covid, and the cost-of-living crisis is not helping our members at this time. Our present government do not have a clue about public workers, and with all the strike action that has taken place they still do not get it.

I was one of the NHS workers that presented our Prime Minister with a signed petition, along with our General Secretary Christiana McAnea, to demand that the government end the pay crisis.

Our private contractors who are low paid do not have agenda for change, the cost of living will be worse for them. The cost-of-living crisis is bad for all of us, but Black workers are more affected.


I want to use all my skills and knowledge to be part of the change that is needed in an inclusive Union.

Proportionality is what we need to strive for, and I ask that you give me the opportunity to be your voice on the NEC.

I would also ask that you also consider revoting Manjula Kumari for the female seat, Ash Silverstone for the male seat and Mitsy Harmon-Russell for the low paid seat.

Thank you for reading and considering my nomination for the Black Members Female seat on the NEC. I am happy to discuss this further with you if you would like, and can be contacted at: amheslop@live.com

Yours in Solidarity,

A handwritten signature in white ink on a dark blue background, reading "A M. Heslop". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Annette Heslop