

Dear Branch Secretary

I am standing for election to the UNISON NEC standing in the **East Midlands Regional Female Seat** because I want to improve UNISON for the benefit of members and branches.

In the past few years, our union has lost its direction. Time wasted on internal wranglings and political infighting, which ended in the vote of no confidence against the NEC at last year's national conference. Our members are facing the fight of their lives, they deserve better.

I work tirelessly in my branch for our members, and I'll do the same on the NEC.

I started out life in Wales before moving to Derby when I was a youngster. My stepdad was a coal miner and a great influence on me. During the miners strikes I saw in him to stand up and fight for his job, industry, and community.

My working life started off in care homes as a care assistant before moving into the NHS working in mental health. Later I moved into education as a parent helper and midday supervisor before completing my NVQ level 3 and landing my dream job as a teaching assistant.

I joined UNISON on day one, the senior midday supervisor said to me "Join the union. We're all in UNISON at this school" - I didn't need any convincing!

In 2015 I found myself on strike with school support staff in Derby. Like my stepdad before, we stood shoulder to shoulder against plans to slash our terms and conditions. The solidarity was amazing.

As the dispute ended, and with the support of some key people who believed in me and helped me develop, I started my journey as a UNISON activist.

I've continued to grow from workplace steward to women's officer, to school's convenor and now the Branch Secretary of Derby City Branch. My journey is one that I'm proud of - as a woman, a school worker, and a mum. I owe so much to our union.

Organising workers to win for themselves is what I'm about. I've helped mobilise a collective equal pay claim, ensuring women get the fair pay they deserve. And I've supported school kitchen workers who hadn't had a pay rise for years - together we secured a bonus and the promise of annual pay reviews.

I am a member of the national school's forum and national women's committee, so I come to this election with experience at branch, regional and national level.

If elected I will be a voice for all members. I will always be a champion for our dedicated team of activists and branches across the East Midlands. I believe if we work together, united with a common goal, we emerge stronger.

I hope your branch will nominate me and encourage your members to vote for me.

*Becky*



**BECKY  
EVERETT**

NEC  
Womens Seat  
East Midlands