

VOTE CAMERON AND MICAELA FOR YOUNG MEMBERS NEC SEATS!

CAMERON SMITH- YOUNG MEMBERS GENERAL SEAT



My name is Cameron and I am a joint Youth Officer within Lothian Health Branch and Co-chair of our Young member's self-organised group whilst also an active full-time shop steward.

Experience:

- Fully seconded workplace rep- spending everyday representing our members.
- As Co-chair of our Young members group I have increased the number of young reps in our branch.
- Collectively built up our Self organised group through workplace organising.
- Surveyed our young members to find out which issues matter to them!
- Supported young members political education in the branch.
- Organised campaigns targeted at young people in the workplace and wider community.
- Branch officer.

MICAELA TRACEY-RAMOS- YOUNG MEMBERS FEMALE SEAT



My name is Micaela and I am Co-Chair of the North West Young Members Forum and a Workplace rep and branch officer within Wirral Local Government Branch.

Experience:

- Collectively built NWYM forum through organising regionally and in different workplaces.
- As co-chair of the forum, I saw an increase in the number of workplace reps active on our committee and forum.
- Held regular organising training for our young members with the support of our staff.
- Encouraging the forum to play a part in regional and national strike ballots by phone banking.
- Supported the organising agenda in our region.
- Organised young members political school, covering topics from economics to international solidarity.
- Branch officer and workplace rep.

The NEC elections are taking place against the backdrop of the most significant industrial and political challenges for UNISON members, for more than a decade.

That is why I am standing and pledge to work alongside our General Secretary, to deliver for our members.

The Cost of Living Crisis has impacted all of our members and they must be the union's top priority, every day.

UNISON has done well to work across all sectors and with members to highlight the reality of life for public service workers.

The union has delivered industrial action ballots and has shown the strength we have in UNISON.

However, we must do much more to engage with our members in our ballots. This will increase our collective workplace strength and bring us more victories.

Public services are facing unprecedented funding cuts and this means staff are experiencing:

- Low pay;
- Staffing pressures;
- Attacks on terms and conditions;
- Privatisation.

That is why we need a strong NEC that works collectively to deliver for all our members.

UNISON is a member-led union and we must ensure more of our members are able to actively take part in our decision-making and our campaigns.

We need an NEC that recognises the central role of our regions and also understands the impact of Devolution on how as a union we undertake our bargaining and organising.

We are seeing an increase in Devolution both across Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland, and also increasingly in English regions.

We need to ensure UNISON is able to adequately engage with all political and Government structures.

We must continue to strengthen our commitment to challenging discrimination and promoting equalities in our workplaces and working with our self-organised structures is key in achieving this.

UNISON is the biggest union, but we must not be complacent.

We must work with branches to support recruitment and a growth in the number of people active in our workplaces so we can continue to grow.

We need more initiatives such as the Branch Support and Organising Fund which is overseen by regions to provide additional support to branches.

We know that branches need support for activists to have adequate facility time, and grow UNISON in our workplaces.

Young workers are disproportionately impacted by the cost-of-living crisis and we are more likely to be in low paid, precarious work. We need to be organising in our workplaces, branches and regions to combat this. However, it is a bleak picture in terms of young workers joining and becoming activists in our trade union- the average age of a workplace rep in UNISON is 56 and we have an ageing activist base. To ensure the sustainability of our union and ensure that our voices are heard- Young members need to be supported to take on these roles within the union.

It is through organising and collective workplace strength that we will retain members and activists- and recruit young members.

As your voice on the NEC, we will ensure that young workers have the resources and training to build up their regional young members forums and that branches have the resources and knowledge to engage with young workers.

We will also ensure that we deliver regular reports to the National Young Members Forum to ensure accountability to members.

I want to be part of an NEC that will work across the whole union, with our focus on delivering for our members on the issues that matter to them.

Your nomination will greatly help our campaign and we are happy to discuss it more with you.

**We can be contacted at m.tracey-ramos@outlook.com and
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Yours in solidarity,

Cameron Smith

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Branch: Lothian Health Branch

&

Micaela Tracey-Ramos

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