



**Katrina Murray**

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## **Nominate Katrina Murray for the Disabled Members (Female) Seat UNISON NEC Elections 2023**

I am seeking your branch nomination for the Disabled Female Seat on UNISON's National Executive Council. This seat is elected by the whole union and nominated for by branches as well as regional disabled members groups. **You do not need to have an active disabled members self-organised group within your branch to be able to make a nomination.**

### **Why I am standing**

I was privileged to be elected to the NEC in 2021 to represent Disabled Workers on the NEC and I am seeking your support to continue in this role. When I was elected, I made a pledge that I would hold myself accountable to disabled members, that I would always justify why I made decisions that I made and would be honest to the National Disabled Members Committee and through that to branches and activists.

For any branch, who attended National Delegate Conference in 2022, will have seen the sad circumstances that culminated in an unprecedented Vote of No Confidence in the NEC. Whilst actions that the NEC had taken, have been overturned by the activists and branches at NDC, I strongly believe that an opportunity has been lost to try and rebuild relationships and move on. That is why these elections are so important to our members and the people that we represent.

I was proud to play a big part in UNISON's Year of Disabled Worker in 2022, a year which highlighted so many of the challenges that Disabled People face in both the workplace and in society.

## **Challenges Facing Disabled Members in UNISON**

The Cost of Living Crisis has had a disproportionate impact on Disabled People. Whether it is higher energy costs higher costs of food or real difficulty claiming both benefits and care costs, it has become much more challenging to be disabled and stay at work.

### **What Disabled Members need UNISON to do?**

Disabled members need UNISON to do what its good at, namely being a campaigning union organising to

- Increase Pay and protect & improve conditions at work, Pay awards need to meet the rate of inflation and the rising cost of living.
- Protect Jobs and Fight against Privatisation and the dilution of services
- Defend the NHS and Social Care within Local Authorities and Community services
- Ensuring that work is safe and reasonable adjustments fully meet the needs of disabled members.

### **Why you should Nominate Me**

With nearly 30 years of experience of working within the Trade Union movement at all levels I enjoy engaging with our members in the workplaces and in communities. I've organised lobbies, campaign sessions, ward walkrounds, petitions and social media. I've been part of virtual campaign teams. I have campaigned to end privatisation and for proper pay awards. I am currently Chair of my branch, Lanarkshire Health which is a large health branch in West Central Scotland.

I've been an equality campaigner for women's and disability rights since I was a teenager and have experience of making sure that our voices are heard. I am currently a member of the Scottish Disabled Members Committee and have been a member of the National Disabled Members Committee for the last 4 years

I would also ask you to consider nominating **Angela Hamilton** for the Disabled Members (General) Seat. We have worked closely over the last 2 years as the team elected to represent disabled members and complement each other well.

### **How to Nominate**

Nominations have to be made at a quorate Branch committee or Branch Meeting from 9<sup>th</sup> January and submitted before the 13<sup>th</sup> February. Nominations must be submitted via the online portal. For any questions on the process, you can contact [elections@unison.co.uk](mailto:elections@unison.co.uk)