

2023 National Executive Council Elections



Nominate **Davena Rankin** Scotland Female Seat

A strong Scottish voice on the NEC



I am writing to ask that your Branch consider re-nominating me for one of the two Scotland Female seats in this year's NEC elections.

In 2013, I was first elected to represent Scotland and I would like to have the opportunity to continue to work on behalf of our Scottish members and to articulate their views and concerns on the NEC.

I have been active on the NEC, ensuring that a strong Scottish voice is heard when needed. I have always focused on speaking on behalf of our members and have never sought to further the interest of any faction, group or party ahead of the interests and needs of our members.

It is vital that our union understands devolution and ensures that the work carried out at a UK level reflects and respects the differences devolution brings and I have worked with other Scottish colleagues to highlight these differences.

I have had the privilege of speaking on behalf of UNISON at events such as the TUC and STUC annual congresses, Black History Month events and ones focused on the creation of the National Care Services in the home nations. As Chair of the UK Campaign Fund Committee, I have taken part in several events to talk about the impact the cost-of-living crisis is having on our members and UNISON's response to this through our campaigning and industrial strategies.

I believe [actions speak louder than words](#) and I have a track record of delivering on behalf of our members. Despite the increased workload the NEC has brought, I have remained as Branch Secretary and continue to be the lead rep for local casework and negotiations.

Last year, I delivered a successful ballot on pay. I then went on to negotiate a local deal which saw all professional and support staff gain at least five extra annual leave days, an upgrade for our domestics with three months back pay, and the university paid a £1,000 non-consolidated lump sum to all staff. While these wins were substantial and had a real impact on my members lives, the fight for a consolidated pay rise for all staff continues.

The impact of the pandemic is still with us, our public services are chronically underfunded and staff are undervalued and overworked. Our branches and activists continue to work hard to support their members in workplaces and on picket lines. We all deserve a pay rise that allows us to withstand the impact of the cost-of-living crisis. UNISON needs to be at the front of the fight for proper pay justice for all of our members.

I've been active in UNISON since I joined in 1999, becoming a Steward at the University of Glasgow.

Branch Secretary: I have been the Branch Secretary at Glasgow Caledonian University (GCU) Branch since 2001.

Higher Education Service Group Executive: I have held one of the Scottish seats on the Executive since first being elected in 2008. I was a member of the national pay negotiation team for four years.

Women's Self-Organised Groups: I currently Chair the Scottish Women's Committee and was Chair of the National Women's Committee (2017). I am a member of the TUC and STUC Women's Committee and I was proud to be the first Black chair of the STUC Women's Committee (2016).

Local Activist and Campaigner: I have been active within my branch, service group and at a Scottish Level. I believe in speaking my mind and have fought hard on behalf of my members. I have successfully resisted attacks on our terms and conditions, defeated redundancy plans and have actively negotiated improvements for our members.

I am an energetic campaigner and organiser; I have a demonstrable track record of delivering on behalf of my members and also ensuring that those members least able to stand up for themselves have a voice where it matters. As local negotiator for GCU, I am proud that GCU became the first Living Wage accredited university in Scotland. I also successfully led the fight to secure the jobs of the staff working in catering when it looked like they would be made redundant just before Christmas. I also led the negotiations when the working hours for our manual staff were harmonised with no detriment to their salary.

As a Branch Secretary, I know how hard it is to juggle running a branch, supporting our members and activists locally and to campaign to protect the services we deliver. However, this is a fight we must win, as we need to defend our services as well as our pay, terms & conditions and pensions.

Sunak has declared war on workers' right to strike and the NEC needs to focus on defeating his attack instead of engaging in internal naval gazing as it has been doing for the last 18 months. It also means we need to honestly review our resources to ensure that branches feel fully supported in this fight as things are not going to get any easier.

It is important that your reps are able and willing to stand up and represent your views at the NEC. I have always sought to fully represent the concerns of Scottish branches and members even when this has meant being the lone voice in a meeting and I promise to continue to do so as long as I am one of your representatives. I have worked closely with the other Scottish reps on the NEC, contributing to our regular written reports and have also provided detailed updates at meetings of Scottish Council and Committee.

If re-elected, I promise to continue to work tirelessly to defend public services and jobs and fight the cuts and attacks on the right to strike. Whether you work in Local Government, Health, Education, Police and Justice, Community, Energy, a Non Departmental Public Body or in the private sector, I will campaign with you to defend our services and to campaign for proper funding.

Thank you for taking the time to read this request.

Kind regards,
Davena Rankin

Membership number: 5529621

Branch: Glasgow Caledonian University UNISON (7276)

Nomination period: 9th January – 13th February 2023