

MANJULA KUMARI

for NEC Black Members Female Seat

Membership Number: 9247785 Branch Number: 12325



Dear Colleague,

My name is Manjula Kumari, and I am seeking your Branch Nomination for the Black Members female seat on the National Executive Council (NEC).

This seat is elected by the whole Union which means that every branch committee can nominate, plus Regional Black members self-organised groups can also nominate. You do not have to have a Black members group in your Branch to make a nomination.

I have been honoured to have served two terms as one of your female Black members' representatives and I am seeking your support to be re-elected and continue with the work I have undertaken on behalf of branches, members and our National Black Members Committee who I work closely with.

2023 is The Year of The Black Workers and it would be a privilege if I was able to honour the commitment made by Black Workers and to continue fighting for yours and their rights, fighting to lift them and hold their heads high whilst making sure we are equal in the fight against this Government who are attacking our members pay, terms and conditions and rights of some of the most vulnerable workers.

As an Employee within Local Government for over 20 years working in Adult Social Care, I have seen and experienced first-hand the pressure that we are under to deliver a service with less money, reduced staff with an expectation that we will do the work of many supporting the most vulnerable community and I like many will not keep doing this, we are standing up and holding the Government to account.

I have been active within Unison for over 17 years learning from the grass roots what "Our Members" are telling us that what they need from their Union.

It is even more vital now that My Strong Positive Voice is heard for you and I am able to continue working with the NEC, Service Groups, Regions Branches, SOGs, and activists but most importantly with our Members in a time that has challenged them in their workplaces and home.

Let us not forget how the Government '**CLAPPED**' our members praised them for all their hard work looking after the community during COVID 19 at a time that public services were stretched and how did they reward the workers they insulted them by expecting them to continue working whilst implementing a pay freeze.

Fast forward to 2023 and our workers are on their knees working in services that are broken with a government that praises the workers on how hard they are working how they are delivering a great service to the public, but this hasn't stopped them from wielding their axe to:

- Cutting our jobs;
- Reducing our services;
- Cutting our pay;
- Expecting our staff to work longer hours on reduced pay;
- Attacking the terms and conditions of our staff;
- Further privatisation;
- Attacking our right to strike and take action.

They have used the media against our members blaming them for waiting times, delayed appointments, and cancelled appointments.

What they haven't said is that the TORY Government are to blame for it all with their actions against the services our members work in.

The Cost of Living Crisis has had a heart breaking detrimental effect on all of our members, they are having to try to make an already stretched wage go further and because of this it is the Unions top priority for our members.

It is because of the reasons I have given that believe I can and need to continue being a voice for our members on the NEC to ensure that we are held accountable to our members whilst working together to challenge the Tory Government.

As your NEC representative I would continue to work and stand alongside our General Secretary Christina McAnea to deliver in what can only be described as the biggest fight our members in UNISON are facing to their lively hoods.

I am known for speaking out for our members, putting my head above the parapet and challenging those who are not working on behalf our members and I will not stop doing this.

UNISON continues to recognise that **Our Black Workers** are now even more disproportionately impacted, frontline staff across all services are reporting their fears over longer hours, fewer staff and precarious contracts because of this I have and will continue to speak out to ensure Our Black Workers are given the right support, guidance and information they will require to be safe and well to go to work and return back home to their families.

Black Workers are experiencing an increase of Racism in the workplace and in the community, I have been a staunch advocate on the NEC speaking up at every opportunity that our activists must be empowered to Challenge Racism in the Workplace, they must have the right tools to support our Black workers who fear retribution when they speak out.

I have spoken about and shared my personal and professional experiences with other fellow members about how I believe UNISON has travelled my journey whilst supporting me, In my experience I have found that members relate and engage with me when I have shared these experiences.

This has helped them see how the Union has nurtured me to become a stronger Activist and I in turn want to encourage others to become active especially In these challenging times it has never been more important for Black members to become active in UNISON.

I will continue to support Black, Disabled, LGBT+, Women members on varying degrees of complex issues, and will continue to do so with the belief that our members will have the strength and confidence to challenge situations and be in a position to ask for help and support their colleagues.

Thank you for reading and considering my nomination for the Black Members Female seat on the NEC.

Please also consider nominating colleagues who I have confidence in to deliver for our Black Members, Ash Silverstone in the Male Seat and Annette Heslop in the other Female Seat.

Yours in Solidarity,



Manjula Kumari