

**UNISON National Executive Council (NEC) Elections  
2023-2024**

Nominate **Mary McCusker** for **Scottish Region Female Seat**

University of the West of Scotland Branch (UWS)

Membership no: 14013479

***Nomination period 9th January – 13th February 2023***



Dear Branch Secretary,

I write to ask your branch for support to nominate me for the **NEC Female Seat** for the **Scottish Region** on the National Executive Council (NEC) elections 2023.

**My experience and record**

I have been a Trade Union activist for over 30 years, and I am the Branch Chair for University of the West of Scotland Branch, and currently sit on the Scottish Higher Education Committee and the UNISON Scottish Committee.

I have worked in Higher Education (HE) and been a UNISON member and activist for the past 10 years and was previously a Civil Servant in the Department for Work and Pensions where I was an activist within the Public and Commercial Services Union (PCS) for 20 years. I held various TU positions within PCS including Local TU steward, Branch Equalities Officer, Branch Welfare Officer, Branch Chair and was also elected to, and sat on, both the PCS Women's Advisory Committee and the DWP Group Executive Committee.

Within UNISON I have also held various Branch posts, including Branch Education Officer, Branch Secretary, and now, Branch Chair.

I have experience in representing members within the HE sector in various types of personal cases and been a delegate to both the HE Conference and UNISON National Conference over a number of years.

My basic ethos and anchor are that UNISON should always be a member-led Union, and that I am part of a trade union that demonstrates and sets policies and action that empower members to fight for better pay, terms, and conditions.

I have been involved in organising industrial action and recruitment campaigns, and strongly believe that encouraging and mentoring more young members and women members is the key to keeping the pipeline of UNISON activists in full flow, and to ensure that we achieve parity of representation within our union.

I stand as a candidate of the Scottish UNISON Socialist Network which is a group of like-minded socialists in UNISON who advocate for Socialist-led change. This means that I will:

- Organise for a clear, combative leadership on the use of industrial action to advance members interests.
- Campaign for the election of more full-time officers including UNISON Assistant General Secretaries.
- Demand no cuts budgets and a proper fight back in line with UNISON policy.
- Push for the democratisation of UNISON's political fund to ensure financial support only goes to candidates and politicians that clearly support union policy and disputes. Why should we support politicians that don't support striking workers?
- Support and promote UNISON policy on a second independence referendum for Scotland.

Furthermore, I will:

**Oppose All Cuts** – Westminster and the Scottish Government have applied huge public sector cuts within the last decade, whilst allowing big business to avoid paying tax and increasing the number of billionaires within the UK. This is an obscene situation, and it is not up to working class people to absorb the damage that profiteers have caused.

**Fight for Fair Pay** - UNISON members face an unprecedented cost-of-living crisis, and workers have endured pay cuts/pay freezes year upon year. I believe members will always forgive its leadership for fighting, and perhaps losing, rather than forgiving never having the fight in the first place. A strident, combative, and strong UNISON leadership is required to continue to stand up for members and fight for decent and fair pay rises in line with inflation. Plus have access to a robust NHS, Care Service, and Public Services whose staff are valued and respected. As the biggest TU in the UK, I want to see UNISON utilise its vast membership power, raise its profile in the media, and defy employers and governments who favour the few over the many.

This is a very brief introduction of where I stand on UNISON issues. If you have any questions or would like any further information regarding my position on any UNISON issue, then feel free to contact me on [mary.mccusker@uws.ac.uk](mailto:mary.mccusker@uws.ac.uk)

**Yours in solidarity, Mary McCusker, UWS UNISON Branch Chair.**

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