

MITSY HARMON-RUSSELL

for NEC Black Members Reserved Seat

Membership Number: 10394374

Branch Number: 3420



Dear Branch Secretary,

I am seeking your branch support in the UNISON National Executive Council (NEC) elections 2023 and ask that you consider nominating me in the Black Members Low Paid Reserved Seat.

I have been an active member of our union for many years in the Greater London Region, speaking up for Black members and ensuring that their issues are addressed through membership of the Regional Black members Self Organised Group and raising issues with senior lay and staff members.

Organising and supporting Black women members is crucial to me and our union.

In a union of over one million women and in the coming 'Year of the Black Worker' it is now time for our union to organise and allow 'Black Women to rise in our union'.

The NEC has seen changes, but I have seen nothing that has raised the profile of Low Paid Black Women, if elected to the NEC I will ensure that not just in the Year of the Black Worker these voices are heard.

I will ensure that the NEC and the union address the inequality that Black Members believe remain in our union at every level.

In order to deliver on this I will work with the National Black Members Committee (NBMC) and make myself available to all Regions attending their meeting where possible, we have the technology lets use it.

I will also work constructively with the other elected Black Members on the NEC irrespective of political views, we are elected by all members not political groups and this is important to me. By working in this way it benefit not just Black members but the NEC, the NBMC and all members, now is the time to come together.

I am passionate about supporting our members, and I will bring a positive, influential and communicative attitude in these current difficult times which all our members face.

My belief that it is a great opportunity for a Black woman to be a representative in the union and believe that these elections provides a great opportunity to both use my skills and experience to influence and learn more as a productive member of UNISON.

The union is running courses specifically for Black Women in our union, to promote, give confidence and show them how to get involved and the difference they can make.

With the creation of the UNISON College by our General Secretary Christina McAnea there is more to do, and I commit to work with General Secretary and Officers to ensure that there are more to help Black Members not just in progression in our union but in our wider society, taking roles in councils and community groups, taking their experience in to these bodies and vice versa.

I currently work at the Whittington Health NHS Trust where I support on a one-to-one basis ensuring members issues are raised both in the Trust or within the region, referring issues to the correct body/committee in UNISON.

I strongly believe that I am the right person to represent Black Members on the NEC and will be a productive member of the committee, reporting back to all. The skills I have obtain over the years will help to shine additional light on the issue faced by low pay members of the union.

I would also ask that you also consider revoting Manjula Kumari and Annette Heslop for the female seats and Ash Silverstone for the male seat.

Thank you for reading and considering my nomination for the Black Members Low Paid Reserved seat on the NEC. I am happy to discuss this further with you if you would like, and can be contacted at: harmalp@yahoo.co.uk

Yours in Solidarity,

Mitsy Harmon-Russell