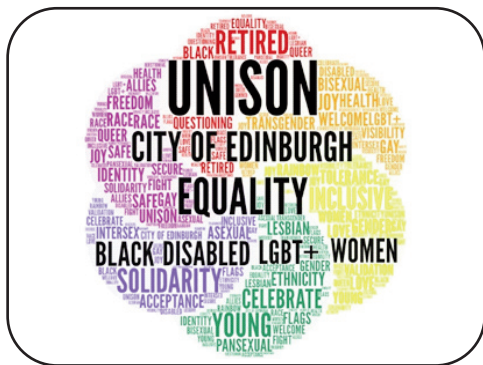


# EQUALITIES UPDATE



## Trans Pride report

Trans Pride Scotland took place on Saturday 29 March 2025 and our branch travelled through to Kirkcaldy to represent. Read the full report here: <https://unison-edinburgh.org.uk/transpride-scotland-2025/>



## International day against Homophobia, Transphobia & Biphobia 2025

International Day Against Homophobia & Biphobia is an annual event that takes place this year on the 17 May to draw attention to the discrimination and violence faced by LGBT+ people world wide.

This day was first conceived in 2005 to highlight the discrimination faced by LGBT+ people around the world and is held on the 17 May in order to mark the World Health Organization's decision to remove homosexuality from its list of mental illnesses in 1990.



We will have a table at Waverley Court on the 15th to mark the day. Please come along and say Hi if you're around.

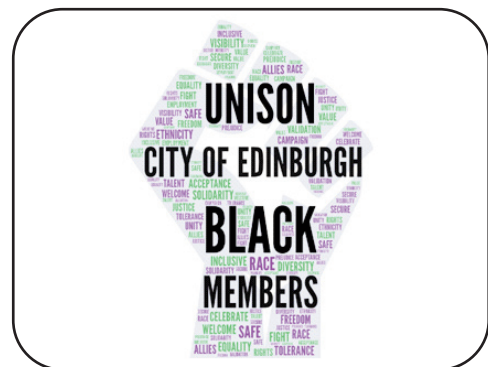
## World Refugee Day

World Refugee Day is the 20 June each year. It has been designated by the United Nations to honour refugees around the world and celebrate the courage & strength they have shown when forced to flee their country. World Refugee Day was held globally for the first time on 20 June 2001 to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the

1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees. It was originally known as Africa Refugee Day, before the United Nations General Assembly officially designated it as an international day in December 2000

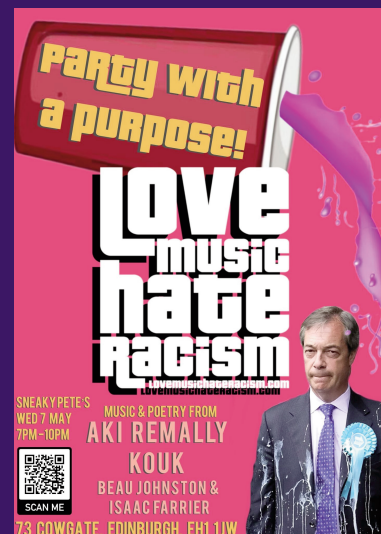


This year Stand Up to Racism have called for a national demonstration on the 21 June, starting at Barrowland Park in Glasgow at 12 noon then marching through the city centre to the Old Fruit market for a rally then a gig put on by LoveMusicHate Racism.



## Stand up to Racism Gig

Our friends at Stand up to Racism are putting on this amazing gig at Sneaky Pete's on 7 May 2025. Come along for a great night of music and support a great cause.



## Disabled branch officers vacancy

We are currently looking to fill the position of Disabled Branch Officer. This voluntary post would be part of our busy equalities team. Do you would have a passion for trade unionism and disabled equalities? Then we would love to hear from you. In this role you would be the person the branch and our members look to for support regarding any disability's issues, leading the disabled members self-organised group, being the link between the members, branch, and regional members group and much more. If you are interested, please contact Mark Laidlaw, the equalities co-ordinator at [mark.laidlaw@unison.edinburgh.org.uk](mailto:mark.laidlaw@unison.edinburgh.org.uk)



### Access to Work

**A**ccess to Work is a publicly funded employment support programme that aims to help more disabled people start or stay in work. It can provide practical and financial support if you have a disability or physical or mental health condition. They have the following information sessions available to book via Eventbrite (all sessions are online)

#### Part 1A – Before you apply

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/access-to-work-info-sessions-part-1a-before-you-apply-tickets-1092830347989>

#### Part 1B – Complete your application together

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/access-to-work-info-sessions-part1b-complete-your-application-together-tickets-1034865419327>

#### Part 2 – Preparing to meet your

#### caseworker

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/access-to-work-info-sessions-part-2-preparing-to-meet-your-caseworker-tickets-1050453463587?aff=ebdsoporgprofile>

#### Part 3 – Using and managing your grant

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/access-to-work-info-sessions-part-3-using-and-managing-your-grant>

### UNISON Spotlight

**U**NISON City of Edinburgh Branch is affiliated with and supports many different organisations and charities, and we will have a look at each one in these newsletters. First up is SERA.

SERA is the Scottish Emergency Rescue Association whose founder and chair is Garry Bennett who some of you might have seen speak at our last A.G.M. SERA source redundant fire engines and ambulances and equipment and repair and refurbish them to full operational use. Over 90 vehicles have been delivered to countries such as Moldova, Ukraine, Serbia,

Romania & Burundi. They have also trained hundreds of firefighters in each of those countries to safely use and maintain these vehicles and equipment. We are proud to support this amazing charity and if you'd like more information, it can be found at [sera.scot](http://sera.scot).



### UNISON Self-organised Groups

**I**am writing to tell you about self-organised groups and their role in UNISON. The four groups are Black members, LGBT+, Disabled and Women's groups. Members of all four groups share the experience of discrimination at work and in the community so being part of a self-organised group will give you the opportunity to discuss and take forward your own issues and receive any support you may need. You will also be helping to promote the union's equalities and bargaining agenda, defend jobs,

terms and conditions and services.

Each group also has a conference where delegates attend as representatives and help shape what UNISON will prioritise regarding policies in the upcoming year as well as voting on motions and having the chance to network with other groups from across Britain.

Please get in touch if self-organised groups are something you would be interested in joining.

As mentioned previously we don't have a Disabled Officer, so again if this is something you would be interested in, please get in touch with myself or the Branch office on 0131 558 7488 option 2 or email

[branchoffice@unison-edinburgh.org.uk](mailto:branchoffice@unison-edinburgh.org.uk) for more information. Thanks for reading and I am looking forward to hearing from you.

Mark Laidlaw, Equalities Officer

Scanning this code will take you straight to the Equalities section of our website.

