

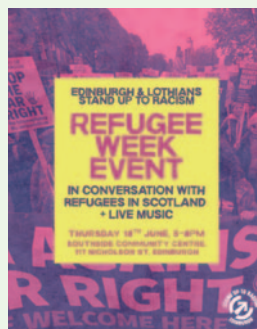
Welcome to our summer equalities newsletter. As well as dealing with cases, our Officers have been attending events, conferences and demonstrations all over the country to make sure all our members and the wider community are treated fairly and with respect. Equalities are at the heart of what we do and as always, please get in touch with any equality issue you may have.

Mark Laidlaw, Equalities Officer

Refugee Week

This year Refugee week takes place between the 15 & 21 June with world refugee day taking place on the 20 June. The theme for this year is courage. Over the last few months especially, right wing politicians and their followers are trying to divide and blame but this celebration is for us to come together and welcome, to stand up for what we believe in and to celebrate culture & community.

Stand up to Racism Edinburgh, who we are affiliated with are hosting an event at South side Community Centre on the 18 June 5-8pm with conversations with Refugees and live music, we hope you can make it along and enjoy the evening.



Pride Month

June is Pride month and this year's Edinburgh march and celebrations will take place on the 20 June, assembling at the Scottish Parliament from 12:15 and setting off at 13:00. UNISON, as always will be there. We hope to see many of you there and if you'd like to march with us, keep an eye out for our flags outside the Parliament.'



Sheku Bayoh

After Lord Bracadale resigned as chair after pressure from The Scottish Police Federation, Lord Colbeck, Craig Turnbull was appointed and started as chair on 2 March.

writing from core participants are now



being invited with the

final deadline being 18 September. The family lawyer, Aamer Anwar said "It will be no simple task for the chair to take over the reins of Lord Bracadale, but the evidence has been heard, can be seen and read - it is time to restart the stopwatch"

Menstrual Health

UNISON are hosting a webinar run by Henpicked on menstrual health on Thursday 11 June between 12-1.00pm which will look at practical ways to manage symptoms, how to access reliable information and what good workplace support can look like. The webinar is open to all members, whether you menstruate or not. Register here:

<https://learning.unison.org.uk/events/menstruation-colleague-awareness-webinar-june-2026/>

UNISON Spotlight

UNISON City of Edinburgh Branch is affiliated with and supports many different organisations and charities and we will have a look at each of these in these newsletters. Next up is Stand Up To Racism Edinburgh.

Stand Up To Racism Edinburgh (SUTR) is a campaign group that is part of the wider SUTR organisation that has groups all over the United Kingdom. They organise protests, community mobilisations and educational events to fight racism, Islamophobia and antisemitism.

They have been key in stamping out local far right groups and supporters and are always present when racism rears its ugly head on the streets of Edinburgh and beyond.

We work closely with SUTR Edinburgh and support all the work they do. For more information go to standuptoracism.org.uk



Join us in UNISON
0131 58 7488 option 2 or
www.unison-edinburgh.org.uk

Self Organised Groups

For the first time in a long time, we have all our self-organised groups (S.O.G's) up and running.

We have four groups, Woman's, LGBT+, Black and Young members. These are a crucial part of our branch structure and meet locally and nationally to discuss, campaign and organise around the specific issues that affect them.

Members of each group have attended conferences all over the country this year and found it a really enjoyable and a fulfilling experience. These groups help us understand equality and meet our equality aims.

If you would like to join any of these groups please contact the branch for more information (click link below). Each group has both formal meetings and social events coming up so please get involved and come along and meet like minded members and help make a difference.

Young Members Network Meetings

UNISON now have networks for young members across all our Self-Organised Groups. The networks are a chance for young members to meet in a more informal setting, discuss the issues that matter to them, and share experiences.



Register below for the relevant network or networks:

Young women: **12-1pm, Wednesday 8 July 2026, online via teams**

Young Black members: time and date to be confirmed, **register here**

Young LGBT+ members: **12-1pm, Tuesday 9 June 2026, online via Teams**

Young Disabled members:

2-4pm Tuesday 23 June, online via Teams

Challenging racism: Baroness Doreen Lawrence in conversation

UNISON welcomed Baroness Doreen Lawrence to UNISON's health conference for a powerful conversation with Helga Pile, head of health, on challenging racism in our public services and

resisting the rise of the far right. Drawing on decades of campaigning for racial justice, Baroness Lawrence spoke candidly about institutional racism, the impact of austerity and hostile immigration policies, and the urgent need to support young people and public sector workers in speaking out. [Click to watch video](#)

We Won't Look the other Way

Domestic abuse takes many forms – physical, emotional, psychological, sexual and financial and it affects victims in the workplace and beyond. That's why it's an issue for everyone including UNISON. We are here to help and support our members.

- We provide emergency assistance, including financial aid if necessary, through our charity There For You.
- We negotiate workplace policies to support and assist staff experiencing domestic abuse.

Anyone can be a victim, regardless of gender, age, culture, ethnic origin, disability or sexual orientation and anyone can be a perpetrator - partners, spouses, parents, children or carers.

So if you need our help go to:
unison.org.uk/get-help or call our trained advisors on **0207 121 5620** (Monday too Friday).

You can also call UNISON on **0800 0 857 857 (text phone 0800 0 967 968)**. Lines are open 6am-midnight, Monday to Friday, and 9am-4pm on Saturdays or email thereforyou@unison.co.uk

Your branch may also be able to help. You can contact them direct on **0131 558 7488** option to make contact with the branch Welfare Officer.

UNISON – we won't look the other way.

Want to get more involved?

Why not become a UNISON Shop Steward or Health & Safety Representative?

**Contact the branch office for more information:
0131 558 7488 option 2
branchoffice@unison-edinburgh.org.uk**