

Welcome to our Autumn 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

DOMESTIC ABUSE

Domestic abuse takes many forms – physical, emotional, psychological, sexual, and financial and it affects victims in the workplace and beyond. That is why it is 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 to Friday). You can also call UNISON 0800 0 857857 (text phone 0800 0967 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 directly on 0131 558 7488 option 2 to contact the branch Welfare Officer.

UNISON – we will not look the other way.

Sheku Bayoh Inquiry

There has been no update on the enquiry since the last newsletter, but we will keep writing about this

and keep it in the public eye until the family gets the justice they deserve. All information on the case can be found at shekubayohinquiry.scot



SUTR Unity Festival

Stand up to Racism Edinburgh are holding a unity festival on Saturday 24th October at Castlebrae Community Campus. Come along to this fun, anti-racist event for the whole family which includes live music, market stalls, food, and dance. This will be an important day to come together as one community and celebrate multi-culturalism. See you there.



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

Black History Month

October is Black history month, and this year's theme is honouring our communities. Highlighting everyday contributions from Black people in our society. This month is important as it challenges the historical exclusion of Black heritage from mainstream education and public life. As a trade Union committed to equality, fairness and inclusion, this month provides all of us with an opportunity to reflect on how we can create a more inclusive society for everyone.



ACE WEEK 2026

This year Ace week (formerly Asexual Awareness Week) takes place between 25th - 31st October. This week is important to raise awareness of asexuality, build community, highlight the diversity of the asexual spectrum, and aim to combat misunderstanding within and outside the LGBT+ community. More information can be found on aceweek.org

Ace Awareness Week

Edinburgh Diwali 2026 will be celebrated on Sunday 15th November 2026! Diwali celebrations in Edinburgh are a great opportunity for everyone to come together, embrace diversity, and celebrate the rich cultural traditions of India and other South Asian communities. By taking part in the festivities, people from all backgrounds can learn about the significance of Diwali, the festival of lights, which symbolises the victory of light over darkness, good over evil, and hope over despair. These celebrations promote unity, respect, and understanding between different cultures, helping to build a more inclusive and welcoming community. Joining the celebrations in Edinburgh is not just about experiencing a festival; it is about strengthening community bonds, appreciating cultural diversity, and creating a city where everyone feels valued, respected, and included. The celebrations are free and open to all.



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**

