

# UNISON Birmingham

## International Officer

Britain's economy and political system are interdependent with Europe and the rest of the world. In the current economic climate as we are all engaged in the struggle to protect our public services Birmingham Unison believe that it is vital that UNISON works with sister trade unions in other countries and through key international organisations to promote and protect members' interests and concerns.

In the UK we take for granted the right to access the branch and wider union, to meet and discuss work problems or politics. But trade unionists in many other countries risk intimidation and even death for active membership in a union. Solidarity - joining together with others who share a common interest - is the very basis of trade unionism, and it shouldn't stop at national borders. As the branch International officer you will promote the branches international work.

### **Tasks relating to the post of international officer:**

- to co-ordinate the branch's work on international relations
- to ensure that branch members are informed of national policy on international matters
- to receive and distribute relevant information
- to encourage members to be aware of the importance of international solidarity issues within the context of the overall work of the union
- to liaise where appropriate with regional international structures and to ensure that the views of the branch on international activities are reported appropriately
- to liaise with other branch officers concerning publicity and education on international issues
- to liaise with the solidarity organisations and campaigns that UNISON nationally and the branch are affiliated to
- to encourage members of the branch to take action and participate in international solidarity activities organised nationally or regionally
- to ensure that information on branch activity is shared at regional and national level
- to seek to develop an international perspective among members, stewards and branch officers.