Black Members in UNISON

IN THIS ISSUE

UNISON ACTIVIST

EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

COMMONWEALTH GAMES

BLACK HISTORY EXPO

WINDRUSH GENERATION MEMORIES

REMEMBERING ENSLAVED AFRICANS

REMEMBERING STEPHEN LAWRENCE

MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS

NELSON MANDELA DAY

OUR OBJECTIVE

is to bring together Black Unison Members to share experiences, skills and expertise and raise awareness and engagement on issues that affect them; provide employees with practical and emotional support whilst focusing on Equality, Diversity issues and legislation.

Membership Services

Are designed to support, enable, and empower our members in the workplace, to ensure that they can enjoy an equitable and quality working environment whilst delivering excellent services and promoting professional standards and competence.

Practical and Emotional Support on Harassment and Discrimination issues offering practical Guidance and Support through HR policy and procedures. management and Employee Relations Good practice guidance Recognition of Work Excellence & Personal Success in our work update

DEVINING BLACK

In UNISON, 'Black' – with a capital B – is used to indicate people with a shared history. 'Black' is used in a broad political and inclusive sense to describe people in the UK who have suffered from colonialism and enslavement in the past and continue to experience racism and diminished opportunities today.

UNISON ACTIVIST

WHO WE ARE

UNISON's Black Members Self Organised Group has been established to effectively challenge inequality by working together to share concerns and aspirations, including establishing their own priorities. It is important to stress that the group is not associated with any existing employee groups.

However, if you are a Black member of UNISON who has experienced racial harassment/discrimination in the workplace or within the community but have felt that there is no one to talk to for advice and support. Then why not join our group?

It is acknowledged through the Birmingham City Council's recently published report on Workforce Diversity that employees of Black/Black British heritage are twice as likely to be disciplined.

Also, employees of Black/Black British origin are 1.5 times overrepresented in compulsory redundancies. The figures highlighted are alarming; unfortunately, with further cuts pending these figures will potentially increase.

The Black Members Officer is in the office every Tuesday if you would like to speak with her. There are regular Black Members SOG meetings, which will be advertised on this website and social media.

Birmingham as a Baton Bearer for the Commonwealth Games.

Trevor McIntosh was selected to represent Birmingham as a Baton Bearer for the Commonwealth Games.

Trevor has worked in various roles for Adult Social Care since 1995 and over the years has supported both Unison and the Black Workers Support Group. Personally dedicated to his community work, Trevor brings people together, especially through the sport of Cricket and the Annual Sickle Cell and Thalassemia matches. These matches are played at annual events such as The Bringing Communities Together Family Fun and Health Awareness days – events which have taken place for 20 years.

Trevor is also the founder of the Annual UK Legends of Legends event – a concert that highlights UK Windrush reggae artists and now in its 15th year. He also played a key role supporting food banks and befriending services throughout the Covid19 pandemic.

BLACK HISTORY MONTH EXPO

WINDRUSH GENERATION MEMORIES

The exhibition dives into the heritage of Derby West Indian Community Association (DWICA), including Windrush generation memories and the experiences of younger members growing up in Derby. It explores how the Association has positively responded to challenges over six decades, to support its local community, building a legacy in the city through its many social, cultural, education and sporting achievements. The exhibition celebrates the vibrancy and spirit of Derby Caribbean Carnival and the year-long local national and international connections and collaborations that make this highlight of Derby's cultural calendar possible.

IN RECOGNITION OF STEPHEN LAWRENCE

Unison Black Members SOG held an event in recognition of the 25th Anniversary of the death of Stephen Lawrence the event was proactive, engaging and very informative.

22nd April will be the fourth national Stephen Lawrence Day. After a 25th anniversary memorial service for Stephen in 2018, the Stephen Lawrence Foundation created a day to celebrate and mark Stephen's life and legacy. The day focuses on young people and their communities. It exists - 'to inspire a more equal, inclusive society, and to foster opportunities for marginalised young people in the UK'.

Mental Health Awareness Month

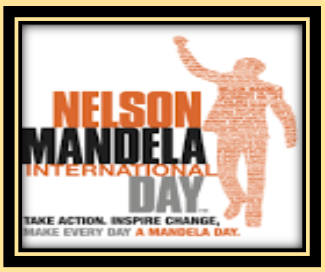
This was the theme at our April 2022 SOG Meeting. Please see below a brief synopsis:

Mental Health Awareness Month (also referred to as "Mental Health Month") has been observed in May in the United States since 1949. The month is observed with media, local events, and film screenings. Mental Health Awareness Month began in the United States in 1949 and was started by the Mental Health America (MHA) organization (then known as the National Association for Mental Health). Each year in mid-March Mental Health America releases a toolkit of materials to guide preparation for outreach activities during Mental Health Awareness Month. During the month of May, MHA, its affiliates, and other organizations interested in mental health conduct activities which are based on a different theme each year.

NELSON MANDELA DAY

On 18 July every year, we invite you to mark Nelson Mandela International Day by making a difference in your communities. Everyone has the ability and the responsibility to change the world for the better! Mandela Day is an occasion for all to take action and inspire change.

Nelson Mandela devoted his life to the service of humanity — as a human rights lawyer, a prisoner of conscience, an international peacemaker and the first democratically elected president of a free South Africa. Unison Black Members SOG marked this iconic day by making this discussion topic at our meeting.



Newsletter produced by Jennifer Mackintosh - Unison Black Members Officer