



No.8 Late Summer 2019

Protesting against commercialisation of Pride events

In response to proposed charges by this year's Glasgow 'Mardigla' organisers in Glasgow, your Regional Committee made a decision to withdraw support and made the following statement in local press.

"UNISON Scotland LGBT+ committee wish to make our position clear on the issue of Mardigla this year. We were initially supportive of the concept of a free Pride event, however on the issue of paying to march – UNISON has a proud tradition of supporting it's members and promoting our trade union, but we believe that the position taken by the organisers of Mardigla is a step too far.

We believe that all groups and organisations should have the right to freely march through our city.

We will not be represented as an organisation at this year's march, as we refuse to pay £500 for our organisation to be given permission by these individuals to take part in the parade. We will however attend and march with our LGBT+ community individually. We look to Glasgow City Council to bring together individuals and organisations so that the Glasgow Pride event can be free and transparent in relation to its organisational structures."



Unions are being increasingly marginalised, and Pride is at its roots a protest. We believe that we should retain our free democratic right to protest in Glasgow and as you can see we did so loudly and clearly at the march on the day. We hope that you will understand why we made this decision which was supported by many of our sister trade unions and NHS Glasgow and Clyde who also withdrew.

Keeping LGBT+ issues highly visible



We have continued to have a visible attendance at Pride events across the country. We had a very successful stall at Fife Pride and our Highland Colleagues attended Proud Ness at their very successful free event in the highlands. We have a further 4 events to attend in coming weeks and months. Please continue to support your local events and pop along for information. If you can help to support the stalls at any events please get in touch.



OUT IN UNISON

'Out in UNISON' our unions national LGBT+ newsletter is only published three times a year, but you can get monthly updates direct to your inbox by signing up for our LGBT+ e-bulletin at: unison.org.uk/out

Scottish Region Pride Events 2019

West Lothian Pride, Livingston - 27th July 2019
Perth Pride - 10th August 2019

East Renfrewshire Pride – Friday 16th August 2019
Dundee Pride - 21st September 2019

We believe that when we work together, we are stronger and make a bigger impact. If you or your Branch are planning on attending any Pride events across Scotland, please contact the committee. Many thanks to Branches who have assisted in the running of a stall at some of the new events, or who have offered financial assistance to do so, this is greatly appreciated and your help has been invaluable.

Let's continue to build our UNISON LGBT+ network in Scotland which is growing fast.

UNISON National LGBT+ Conference 2019

This year's conference takes place from Friday 15th to Sunday 17th November at the Bournemouth International Centre. **Deadline for nominations to attend is 12 noon, Friday 20th September 2019.**

Around 400 LGBT+ members from all sectors are likely to attend this conference. The programme includes keynote speakers, debate of policy motions, workshops, drop-ins, side meetings for Black, Disabled, Bi, Trans and Young members and lots of networking opportunities.

If you are a UNISON LGBT+ member and would like to attend, we suggest making contact with your local Branch in the first instance. You can get the registration form using this link - <https://www.unison.org.uk/events/2019-lgbt-conference>

Your Regional Committee will produce a guide to conference nearer the time with information on your Regional delegates and meetings etc. This will be sent to all Scottish delegates after registration once we have updated the information. This will include information on Regional motions and contacts for the conference as well as how conference works. This is especially helpful if you have never attended conference before.

We actively encourage members to attend conference, even if it is your first time the regional committee will be there to support and welcome you. We hope that Branches have submitted motions for debate during conference business especially if there is a topic or issues you are passionate about. If you are unsure of how to write motions or the process we are happy to help.

For more information about the conference, email - out@unison.co.uk.

50 years and Still Fighting for Equality

We were recently invited to attend a reception at the Scottish Parliament to celebrate and commemorate 50 years of activism, hosted by Kezia Dugdale. We are very proud of our work for LGBT+ equality and were delighted to attend this important event. All parties were represented and many great activists spoke passionately about the history of our activism and discussed the work still to be done including the fight for legislation on gender recognition.



LGBT+ National Meetings

National Black LGBT+ members network meeting - Thursday 12th September 2019

National Disabled LGBT+ Members network meeting - Thursday 12th September 2019

Contact and Information

Facebook Group – Unison Scotland LGBT+ (ask to join private group)

Twitter – UNISONScotlandLGBT+ @UNISONScotLGBT

Instagram – UNISONScotLGBT+