

YOUNG MEMBERS IN UNISON



WHAT IS A TRADE UNION? Many young people don't know what a trade union is, or if they do they are often seen as unimportant, old fashioned and constantly calling strikes. This is far from the truth.

A trade union is an organised group of workers that have joined together to support each other in the workplace. Unions provide individuals with representation and also negotiate with employers to agree wages, work rules, complaint procedures, benefits, workplace safety and other policies.

WHY JOIN A TRADE UNION? Trade unions are here because as an individual you have very little power or influence over decisions that are made about your job. By uniting with your workmates you have a bigger voice and more control over decisions your employer makes that will affect you.

WHY ARE TRADE UNIONS RELEVANT TO YOUNG PEOPLE? Young people need to be trade union members for support in tackling the problems they face at work. UNISON knows that young people are often not aware of their rights and face harassment, bullying and discrimination at work, they are also more likely to be low paid, and be on a temporary or short term contract.

WHY JOIN UNISON? UNISON is UK's largest public sector union with over 1.3 million members. UNISON wants young members to work together and organise to win improved working conditions and pay, campaign for better rights and actively challenge inequality. Young members have a loud voice within UNISON and are an integral part of what we do. We have vibrant and active young members groups at branch, regional and national level.

JOIN IN

UNISON North West has an active Young Members Forum which meets regularly to discuss issues of common concern and interest to young members (aged 26 and under). Meetings are friendly and informal; they are an opportunity to get involved in shaping the union and making sure young members have their voice heard.

You can also get involved in:

- National and Regional Young Members Weekends
- National Young Members Forums
- Social Events
- Campaigning on Young Members issues
- Links with TUC Young Members Groups
- Training and Development Opportunities

Branches can nominate two young members (*at least one of these must be female*) to the North West Young Members Forum, so why not come along? Travel expenses to attend meetings will be reimbursed.

If you would like further information, please contact:-

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Regional Young Members Contact
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Email: v.walton@unison.co.uk

Visit our website at www.unisonnw.org/equality-in-unison/young-members-forum/

MAKE YOUR VOICE HEARD



HOW YOUNG IS YOUNG?

If you're aged 26 or under then you can get involved with UNISON's young members. We know that there are many members who are still young at heart, but we have to draw the line somewhere!