



GMB Young Members Summit 2015 Information

GMB young members, from all nine regions, came together, in Manchester, on the 14th-15th November to set out agendas for the next 12 months. A new committee was elected and votes on what campaigns young members would like to see in the next 12 months.

Committee Elections

The following people got elected:

- Chair – David Hamblin (GMB Wales & South West)
- Secretary – Beccie Ions (GMB Yorkshire & North Derbyshire)
- Communication Officers – Ross Holden (GMB North West & Irish) & Ruth Pitchford (GMB North West & Irish)
- CEC Observers – Craig Dawson (GMB Northern) & Holly Ferguson (GMB Wales & South West)
- TUC Forum Delegates – Jawad Khan (GMB Yorkshire & North Derbyshire) & Kiri Quinn (GMB Northern).

TUC Conference Motion

For the TUC Young Workers Conference motion, there was two motions received. First, from GMB Birmingham & West Midlands, who wanted to see better provisions, for young people, in regards to mental health. Second, from GMB Midlands & East Coast, who put a motion forward to to abolish national minimum wage pay differentials.

The motion to abolish national minimum wage pay differentials was carried and will go through to the TUC Young Workers Conference in 2016.

However, it was agreed that GMB young members will support campaigns around mental health. This is in line the the TUC who passed a campaign motion, in 2015, to campaign for better mental health awareness and provisions.

Campaign Motions

There was three motions put forward as to what young members would like the network to campaign on in the next 12 months. First, was a motion from GMB Midlands & East Coast

who wanted to see increased protection for the self-employed. They cited that the current economy & political conditions are leading to more people becoming self employed and are vulnerable as a result of this.

The second motion, from GMB Scotland,, called on the network to work with national and regional offices to explore developments and funding of a future union leaders academy. This is to help ensure sustainability of the GMB by helping young people, gain the skills, to be leaders of the GMB in future.

The third motion, from GMB Southern, called for the network to campaign, over the coming year, against detrimental changes to benefits which impact on young people such as, housing benefit, tax credits and changes to ESA & JSA.

Delegates agreed that they would like to see the GMB Young Members Network campaign on all three motions over the coming year.

If anyone has any questions on motions or would like to see the motions in full then please contact beccie.ions@gmail.com.

Address from new chair – David Hamblin

Sisters & Brothers,

First up my thanks for those that were able to attend our summit in Manchester. It was a great event and my thanks to all those who set it up. Let's hit the ground running from a great summit and fight for our members.

As promised we'll be compiling a list of events (conferences and similar) and distributing them before the end of the year. Congress deadline will be sent out earlier (because they're that bit closer). I want to ensure that GMB Young Members are represented throughout all parts of our union. We'll not remain in the niche of youth events! I would keenly encourage Young Members to consider attending conferences. I'm also keen for GMB Young Members to submit motions to conferences - we'll ensure you're supported in crafting them.

Myself and the rest of the elected representatives are already in the midst of a flurry of e-mails working out how best to deliver what the Young Members' Network needs: a new communication strategy to ensure that everyone both is and feels connected, toolkits for campaigns, and more. I want to ensure that members are engaged and are able to contribute.

Therefore I ask GMB Young Members:

What are your priorities?

What are your current campaigns?

What support do you need?

There's going to be a fair amount of engagement set up this year to make sure that we can address your answers to those three questions.

Please feel free to e-mail myself on UnionisedDavid@gmail.com.

You may be aware that I'm just that little bit fond of Nye Bevan. He once asserted that "If freedom is to be saved and enlarged poverty must be ended. There is no other solution". There is a poverty inflicted on Young Workers; the poverty of low pay through age differentials, the poverty of housing which is beyond our reach, the poverty of expectation that we will be a generation that must work until we drop. We will fight this poverty and we will beat it through solidarity.

We stand together. We stand as one. We stand in Union.

Solidarity

David Hamblin

Chair – GMB Young Members' Network