

## GMB Young Members CEC Report

The last few months have been a busy one for the GMB Young Members Network, we have held our annual young members political school, attended the Durham Miners' Gala and seen a continuation of our mental health campaign.

### **Durham Miners' Gala:**



GMB Young Members took part in our third annual political school on the three days in the run up to the Miner's Gala. The course was divided into an intermediate and advanced course for those who had never attended the school before hand.

In the advanced course a workshop on marketing, campaigning and messaging took place. Young members then created a campaign around the hash tag #timstardis.

The campaign put into action a whole range of skills from SWOT analysis to planning different campaign techniques and identifying potential allies.

In the evening before the Gala we had talks from Ian Lavery the Member of Parliament for Wansbeck and Shadow Trade Union Minister and Richard Burgon the Shadow Secretary of State for Justice.

The march itself was well attended by the GMB despite the rain and in the evening GMB Young Members attended the Durham Local Government Branch Dinner in what is steadily becoming a yearly tradition.

### **The National Living Wage:**

GMB Young Members are calling for the government to end the unfair practice of excluding young workers under the age of 25 from receiving the National Living Wage.

*Ross Holden, Young Members Communication Officer has written:* "The statistics show that those aged 18-21 can be paid 26% less for the same work as over 25s and those aged 21-24 nearly 7% less"

With the blessing of the Network he has launched an online petition that as of writing has over 2000 signatures calling for age discrimination in rates of pay to be stopped. Once it reaches 10,000 signatures the Government will formally reply to the petition.

**You can sign it online here: <https://petition.parliament.uk/petitions/131920>**

### **GMB on Twitter:**

GMB Young Members set up the GMB and Proud twibbon online, which displays a GMB and Proud graphic at the bottom of your twitter profile picture.

You can add one to your Facebook or twitter profile picture by following this link:  
**<http://twibbon.com/support/gmb-and-proud/>**

## **Regional Young Members Networks:**

### **North West and Irish Network:**

On 13th July we had our first young members' meeting which was a great chance for young activists and members to come together, review the progress made so far this year and begin building our network's grassroots.

Many young members showed interested in taking up Branch positions and a standing committee was elected comprising of Charlotte Nichols as Secretary and Ross Holden as Chair to oversee the running of the network until a full committee is elected at a bigger meeting in October. In the meantime, members are continuing to support existing young members' campaigns such as £10NOW and the mental health campaign. We have also arranged for young members who are also Labour Party members to volunteer for TULO/UnionsTogether at Labour Party Conference next month.

### **Northern Region Network:**

Northern Region have held a meeting in Cumbria and discussed the EU referendum and a work plan for the rest of the year including a mapping exercise to look at where we have young work place reps and to make contact with our branch youth officers.

### **Birmingham and West Midlands Network:**

Birmingham and West Midlands have just recently established their regional Young Members Network. They have brought young members together using Whatsapp and are having their first meeting on the 12<sup>th</sup> September.

### **London Network:**

GMB Young London are back with a campaign to protect and promote the jobs and workers' rights of the thousands of young workers who keep London moving after dark.

If you would like to get involved in GMB Young London you can click their Facebook tag above, tweet @GMBYoungLondon or email [younglondongmb@gmail.com](mailto:younglondongmb@gmail.com).

### **Yorkshire and North Derbyshire Network:**

Young members have been involved with pride and also we are gearing up to hold an event for world mental health day in October the 10 where we plan a day of events.

GMB member Emily Warrillow won the princess award for her campaigning around getting a dangerous building demolished. Jawad Kahn also won the Islamic society young person of the year award.

### **Wales and South West Network:**

Wales & South West were at Cardiff Pride and are currently setting up a WhatsApp group to encourage communications.