

# The Activist

GMB News From Around The Region



GMB's School Support Staff Forum sign the pledge to  
STOP violence in schools

## GMB Says No To Violence In Schools

The region's School Support Staff Forum has launched its campaign against violence and abuse aimed at support staff in schools. Physical and verbal abuse is becoming more common in schools as more children are entering the education system with behavioural problems. Cases of abuse are on the increase and schools need to be reminded that they owe their staff a duty of care. School support staff are now more likely to experience violence at work than almost any other group of workers in the UK. Being attacked is **NOT** part of the job and many incidents go unreported.

## GMB Advice

- Report all incidents of physical or verbal abuse with your school and GMB representative
- Ask your headteacher to adopt a zero tolerance policy on abuse in schools
- Ask your headteacher and other members of staff to sign the pledge to STOP violence and email photos to GMB
- Contact your GMB representative or organiser for support if you feel your school is not taking your issues seriously
- Encourage non-union members to join and report the violence they see or experience.

**Get Involved:** Ask your school to adopt a zero tolerance policy on physical and verbal abuse by children and adults/parents; take your photo with the pledge; ask your friends and family to pledge their support. If you are a parent ask your child's school to adopt a zero tolerance policy on violence in schools. Email pledge photos to Rachel Harrison on: [Rachel.harrison@gmb.org.uk](mailto:Rachel.harrison@gmb.org.uk) (pledge cards available to download from [www.gmbyorkshire.org.uk/in-your-school](http://www.gmbyorkshire.org.uk/in-your-school))

## In this issue

Stop Violence In Schools	page 1
Neil Derrick On The EU Referendum	page 2
Yorkshire Equality Champions	page 3
Road To Congress	page 4
Farewell To GMB Stalwart	page 5
Sign Up A Friend Or Colleague	page 6

## GMB Congress 2016

The 99th GMB Congress will be held at the Bournemouth International Centre from Sunday 5th to Thursday 9th June 2016. 500 delegates representing 641,000 GMB members from all parts of the UK and Ireland and from every sector will meet to discuss the industrial, economic and political agenda of the GMB. A full list of this region's delegation is on page 4. You can follow the daily events at Congress by visiting:

**[www.gmb.public-i.tv](http://www.gmb.public-i.tv)**

**GMB UNION & PROUD**



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## Neil Derrick On The EU Referendum

**VOTE REMAIN ON THE 23rd June 2016**

The EU isn't perfect - it needs to change. GMB has been at the forefront of delivering social and employment rights provided by the EU and protecting them from attack. We know it needs to work better for working people and not big business, but we won't get the change we want by leaving. A vote to leave would put jobs at risk, our ability to trade with other EU countries and would cause years of financial instability and insecurity.

We have to think about our rights at work under a government intent on attacking trade unions and working people. Many of the rights we currently have in the workplace – like paid maternity leave and holiday pay – are guaranteed by EU laws. We understand people's frustrations but there's too much at stake to vote to leave - **So Vote Remain**.

Neil Derrick  
Regional Secretary

Want to know more? Go to  
[www.gmbineurope.org.uk](http://www.gmbineurope.org.uk)

**EU: LEAVE,  
STAY OR  
FIND OUT MORE**

**GMB**  
YOUR VOICE | YOUR RIGHTS | YOUR VOTE

UNIONLINE  
YOUR TRADE UNION LINE FREE  
0300 333 0303  
[www.unionline.co.uk](http://www.unionline.co.uk)

Promoted by Alan Wylie, GMB, 22 Stephenson Way, London, NW1 2PD



L to R Rob Jones (Port Talbot Works), Jason Greene (Stocksbridge Works) and Ian Kemp (Rotherham Works)

## Save Our Steel March

Steel workers from GMB, Unite and Community have marched to the Houses of Parliament to highlight the plight of the steel industry. GMB members from Rotherham, Stocksbridge, Scunthorpe, Shotton and Port Talbot made their way to London for the march. Several thousand from Tata Steel, Outokumpo and other companies were joined by TUC General Secretary, Frances O'Grady and Labour Party leader, Jeremy Corbyn.

**"The march was noisy but light hearted with chants of 'Save Our Steel' sounding-out through the capital,"** said GMB activist from Tata Speciality Steel, Ian Kemp. **"The public showed its support by applauding and stopping marchers to chat and find out what was happening.** Continuing, he said: **"The problems in the steel industry were the culmination of more than 30 years of British governments failing to have a coherent strategy to support British manufacturing. The present government has come in with too little, too late. The situation is causing low morale whilst stress levels caused by uncertainty are sky high."**

## Hands Around Dewsbury Hospital

Brighouse General branch joined other campaigners for a 'Hands Around Dewsbury Hospital' event. They came together with the general public and staff from the hospital to show their commitment in protecting the service. Branch secretary, Cath Pinder, said: "If present plans are enacted, the Kirklees area will have no dedicated Accident & Emergency services."



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## GMB's Future Leaders

In May, GMB young members, Barney O'Connor and Beccie Ions attended the TUC Young Leaders' weekend in London. The theme for the weekend was to understand the challenges facing trade unions, what can be done to tackle these challenges and what skills we need for effective campaigning.

Speaking to The Activist, Beccie said: "**The weekend began by looking at what trade unions look like now in terms of membership demographics and the challenges that unions face. This highlighted the need to get more young people involved in trade unions as they are largely underrepresented in union membership.**

**John Kelly from Birkbeck University addressed the delegation and spoke about the Mobilisation Theory, which focused on the need to engage more with union members so that we are effective when campaigning.**

**Also up for discussion was the modernisation of trade unions. It was widely argued that unions need to move into the 21st century, they need to adapt to reflect the changing face of work in Britain in order to stay relevant to working people."**

**Overall, both Barney and I thought the weekend was informative and found the content useful. It was particularly pleasing that worries about young people's involvement in trade unions was recognised as an issue and that we can all try and improve the position of trade unions today so that we have a sustainable future tomorrow."**

GMB Young Members Beccie Ions and Barney O'Connor



## Yorkshire Equality Champions

Activists within the region will be invited to attend our first **Equality and Inclusion Summit** over the summer as we launch our programme of campaigning activity designed to raise GMB's profile as a champion of equality and anti-discrimination. Watch out for details as we build on the success of our Women's Conference, bring together our Race and Young Members' Committees and coordinate for the first time our activity around LGBT issues and work with our disabled members to take the GMB's reach beyond the Remploy campaign.

We have a proud track record in all these areas but the intention is to bring all those involved together across the region to pool and build resources and agree a timeline of activity across the next 12 months.

At national level too the union is highlighting its commitment to gender and sexual orientation equality by supporting the LGBT Awards. This year the awards were in London and our General Secretary attended... We're working on bringing these awards up North for next year!

The awards recognise those who have gone the extra mile to promote equality, opportunity and respect for all, regardless of sexuality. GMB was proud to sponsor the Charity/Community Initiative Award which was presented by Tim Roache, General Secretary, to the LGBT Foundation.

GMB is committed to achieving equality for all by the inclusion of all members in GMB. If you would like to find out more contact Lou-Foster Wilson on **0345 337 7777** or email: louise.foster-wilson@gmb.org.uk. You can also join us at a Pride event near you this summer:

- **York:** 18th June 2016
- **Huddersfield:** 2nd July 2016
- **Sheffield:** 30th July 2016
- **Leeds:** 6th & 7th August 2016
- **Wakefield:** 14th August 2016



Mandy Roache, from GMB regional office pictured with Alan Carr and Tim Roache, General Secretary at the LGBT Awards

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## Congress 2016

This year's Congress will take place in Bournemouth from Sunday 5th June to Thursday 9th June 2016. It is where your nominated representatives will vote on GMB issues on your behalf. **Below is our regional delegation.**

Badrul Alam	Smart Energy
Peter Bagnall	Leeds School Support Staff
Ian Brown	Bradford & Keighley Gas
Amanda Burley	Leeds Civic
Alex Burton-Keeble	Barnsley Health Service
Ian Butler	Sheffield Waste & Recycling
Aafaq Butt	Brighouse General
Robert Bywater	Asda Distribution
Terence Calvert	Bradford District Care Trust
Angela Cooper	Leeds Works Department
James Finnerty	Barnsley Health Service
Cindy Gavin	Leeds General
Kenneth Gilberthorpe	South Yorkshire & North Derbyshire Blmks
Colin Gill	Leeds Works Dept
Brian Golding	Rowntree & Associated
Glynis Goodge	Doncaster Central
Jason Greene	Parkgate
Kevan Hensby	Sheffield Mcp & Light
Wayne Hill	Leeds General
Michael Hincliffe	Sheffield Waste & Recycling
William Hinsliffe	Yorkshire Copper Works
Mick Hirst	Pontefract Central
Theresa Humphreys	Leeds City Council
Rebecca Ions	Asda Stores
Nadia Iqbal	Smart Metering
John Jackson	Transport & Distribution
Graham Jarvis	Barnsley Manufacturing
Ian Jones	West Yorkshire Police Support Staff
Louise Kavanagh	Leeds School Support Staff
Ian Kemp	Parkgate
Barney O'Connor	Bradford District Care Trust
Catherine Pinder	Brighouse General
Vincent Piper	Robert McBride
David Price	Kirklees
Elizabeth Robinson	Bradford & Keighley Gas
James Shield	York General
David Shillito	Yorkshire Clothing & Textile
Phillip Steer	West Yorkshire Manufacturing
Nigel Townend	BASF Chemicals
Susan Walker	Asda Stores
Chris Wilde	Leeds Health Service
Sarah Young	Sheffield Health

## GMB IN ACTION

You can follow all the speeches, debates, interviews and voting live on Congress TV:

[www.gmb.public-i.tv](http://www.gmb.public-i.tv)



Amanda Burley from Leeds Civic branch receiving an award from actor Ricky Tomlinson and GMB President Mary Turner in 2014

## The Road To Congress

GMB Congress is held annually and it is where the lay member ruling body of the union decides GMB policy on all issues. Each of our nine regions will send a delegation of between 35 and 70 members, depending on the total number of members in that region. Branches are entitled to submit motions to Congress and this year we have some fantastic ones that cover a range of subjects from GMB's Carbon Footprint to the Recruitment & Retention of Members. A number of presentations take place whilst at Congress and this year Yorkshire & North Derbyshire region will certainly make its mark with Catriona Goldhammer from ASDA Stores branch and Pauline Kiely from Yorkshire Ambulance Service branch receiving awards for their work on behalf of GMB. **For further details on becoming a delegate contact your branch secretary.**

## Meet our ASDA Distribution Reps

Our reps at ASDA Distribution work hard for GMB members every day at each of the 3 distribution depots across the region. They provide support on disciplinary and grievance issues, health & safety and education. Our team of shop stewards and health & safety reps take great pride in supporting GMB members and because of this many positive results are gained and our members are better protected at work. **What a great team!**



## APRIL 2016 Latest Inflation (RPI)

- Headline Inflation Rate (RPI All items) **1.3%**
- Underlying Inflation Rate (RPIX excl mortgages) **1.3%**
- Consumer Prices Index (CPI) **0.3%**

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## Transfer Window

The region has made a number of changes in recent months so that we can make the service we provide to our members even better. Following promotions to senior organiser, Pete Davies has made the move to our Brighouse office and Sue Wood to our Sheffield office. To complement the area teams, four new organiser appointments have been made. Ben Kirkham from Ripon and Thirsk General branch joined the team in Wakefield, Andrew Aldwinkle from Leeds Civic branch joined the team in Brighouse, Lee Parkinson from Barnsley GMB branch joined the team in Sheffield and Katherine Mitchell joined the Regional Organising Team in Wakefield. We have also appointed a new legal officer, Neil Sharples, to replace Bill Innes when he retires.

We wish them all the best of luck in their new roles.

## Forthcoming Events

- Congress 5th to 9th June 2016
- Young Members' Training Day 11th June 2016
- EU Referendum 23rd June 2016

The region's Young Members' Section will be facilitating its first training day on Saturday, 11<sup>th</sup> June 2016, at GMB regional office, Wakefield.

**Who can attend?** Any GMB member aged under 30.

**Course content:** Issues facing young people in the workplace, The importance of recruiting young workers into the GMB, Organising young members and Representing young members. Places are limited - so confirm your place today by emailing [rachel.harrison@gmb.org.uk](mailto:rachel.harrison@gmb.org.uk)

**UNIONLINE**  
YOUR TRADE UNION LAW FIRM  
**0300 333 0303**  
[www.unionline.co.uk](http://www.unionline.co.uk)

Have you got an article for The Activist?  
Email it to: [steve.jennings@gmb.org.uk](mailto:steve.jennings@gmb.org.uk)



L to R GMB organiser, Doug Cooper with Paul Halstead and John Jackson Branch Secretary of Transport & Distribution branch

## GMB Says Cheorio To Long Serving Rep

Paul Halstead from Transport & Distribution branch has been a GMB member for almost 40 years, 30 of which he has spent as an active rep at G4S. Paul, who has just recently retired, tells us why he decided to become active for GMB.

**"The main reason I became a GMB activist all those years ago was so that I could stand up to management when the need arose and also to improve the terms and conditions for my members. I also did the role of health & safety rep and really enjoyed learning about health & safety law and I made sure this was put into practice in my workplace so members had a safe working environment. I was very fortunate to be voted onto the NNC 9 years ago. This was the highlight for me as I was not just representing my branch but everyone in GMB who worked for G4S nationally. This all began over 30 years ago and I have never looked back."**

We'd like to wish Paul a long and happy retirement.

Don't lose your GMB membership

Click to switch to Direct Debit

**GMB**

@GMBCampaigns

GMB Yorkshire and North Derbyshire Region

[www.gmbyorkshire.org.uk](http://www.gmbyorkshire.org.uk)

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# GMB—EXPERTS IN THE WORLD OF WORK

It can be as simple as a new manager, or a new way of working that causes you a problem at work. Guard against that day by joining GMB now. GMB membership covers you wherever you work. Only GMB members get GMB help.

**IF YOU WORK YOU NEED GMB@WORK**

**Join now at [www.gmb.org.uk/join](http://www.gmb.org.uk/join) or fill in the form below**

then hand it to your local GMB representative, or post it—simply write FREEPOST GMB Wakefield on an envelope – you don't need a stamp or any other address details.

FOR GMB USE ONLY	Section	Branch number	Membership number	Date of joining

## GMB membership application form **PLEASE USE BLOCK CAPITALS**

**1 TELL US ABOUT YOU**

Surname	First name	Title	Mrs / Miss / Ms / Mr	Date of birth
Home address	Postcode	Home phone number	Mobile number	
We ask for your ethnic origins as part of our equal opportunities policy of improving services to all members Bangladeshi <input type="checkbox"/> Black African <input type="checkbox"/> Black Caribbean <input type="checkbox"/> Black British <input type="checkbox"/> Chinese <input type="checkbox"/> Indian <input type="checkbox"/> Irish <input type="checkbox"/> Pakistani <input type="checkbox"/> White <input type="checkbox"/> Other: <input type="text"/>				
Tick here if you do not wish to contribute to the GMB collective affiliation to the Labour Party <input type="checkbox"/>				
National Insurance number	I agree to abide by GMB rules Signed	X Date <input type="text"/>		

**2 TELL US ABOUT YOUR JOB**

Employer	Your job	
Address where you work	How many hours a week do you work?	Pay number
Postcode	I give my employer permission to notify GMB of any future change of address	
Pay date <input type="text"/>		
I authorise my employer to pass my bank details on to GMB to activate my union membership – Signed <input type="text"/> X		

**CHOOSE EITHER 3 AUTHORITY OF DEDUCTION OF YOUR UNION CONTRIBUTIONS FROM YOUR PAY**

Section 68, Trade Union and Labour Relations (Consolidated) Act 1992 as amended

- I authorise my employer to deduct from my pay each week/month the sum of

£ or other amounts as may be fixed by GMB from time to time.

- Please start the deductions immediately and pay the amounts to GMB.
- I note that this agreement may be cancelled by one month's notice in writing.
- I give permission to my employer to notify GMB of any future change of address.

Cash

Signed

Date

**OR 4 INSTRUCTION TO YOUR BANK OR BUILDING SOCIETY TO PAY BY DIRECT DEBIT**

Please fill in the form below and send to: Freepost GMB Wakefield

Name and full postal address of your Bank or Building Society branch

To the Manager of	Bank/Building Society
Address	
Postcode	

Name(s) of account holder(s)

--

Bank/Building Society account number

	Bank/Building Society Sort Code
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

Banks or Building Societies may not accept Direct Debit instructions for some types of account

Service User Number  9  7  4  3  3  0

**Instructions to your Bank or Building Society:** Please pay GMB Direct Debits from the account detailed in this Instruction subject to the safeguards assured by the Direct Debit Guarantee. I understand that this Instruction may remain with GMB and, if so, details will be passed electronically to my Bank/Building Society.

Signature(s)

X

For GMB official use only. This is not part of the instruction to your Bank/Building Society.  
If your A/C number is not available fill in your address below.

Reference number (GMB use only)

<input type="text"/>				
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