

Workshop Programme

Room / Time Slot	Main Hall (Floor 1) 180	Congress Room (Floor 2) 25	Peterloo Room (Floor 3) 60	Mairy Quaile Room (Floor 3) 40
09:30 – 10:00hrs	Registration			
10:00 – 10:45hrs	Opening Plenary			
10:50 – 11:40hrs	<p>Palestine – Organising in a war zone with walls.</p> <p>Glen Williams & Hadeel Shatara</p>	<p>Derby School Support Staff Dispute. Building and Sustaining the Campaign against Council Cuts in Derby Schools.</p> <p>Nicole Berrisford & Derby Schools Activists</p>	<p>The Future World of Work – if workers are disappearing, where are the unions? A look into the future world of the workplace activist.</p> <p>Nigel Flanagan</p>	<p>Organising Against Austerity – Winning the Argument in the Workplace.</p> <p>Bob Kelly</p>
11:40 – 11:55hrs	BREAK			
12:00 – 13:00hrs	<p>Building Power and Winning – Case studies from US and Europe.</p> <p>Valery Alzaga</p>	<p>Social Care Campaign – lessons in organising in unrecognised workplaces.</p> <p>UNISON NW Care Workers for Change Team</p>	<p>Digital Campaigning – Emails as an effective organising Tool.</p> <p>Ali Torabi</p>	<p>Delivering Successful Industrial Action under the Trade Union Act.</p> <p>Louise Chinnery</p>
13:00 – 13:40	LUNCH & Campaigns Market Place – John Torcher Room			
13:45 – 15:00	<p>"Going on Offense" Through Bargaining for the Common Good</p> <p>Jono Shafer</p>	<p>Social Care Campaign – Reserved session for social care activists to plan next steps</p> <p>UNISON NW Care Workers for Change Team</p>	<p>Reframing Racism</p> <p>Wilf Sullivan, Chaired by Elizabeth Cameron</p>	<p>Building Power through Community Alliances and Leadership</p> <p>Furqan Naeem</p>
15:00 – 15:15	BREAK			
15:20 – 16:30	Closing Plenary			
16:30 – 18:00	Bar Open (plus special guests TBC)			

Workshops

<p>Palestine – Organising in a war zone with walls.</p> <p>Glen Williams & Hadeel Shatara</p>	<p>The workshop is aimed at all activists interested in learning about Palestine. The short documentary ‘Palestine, West Bank War Zone’ will be shown and details of the Project supported by our Region, the Knowledge and Socialist Thought Institute (KSTI), will be shared. Hadeel works at the KSTI and runs a project to achieve the minimum wage. Hadeel is an active women’s campaigner in Ramallah in the West Bank so please come along to see and hear first-hand what is really happening in Palestine, what we can do to support the Palestinian people, and what it is like to organise workers in such an extreme and hostile environment.</p>
<p>Derby School Support Staff Dispute. Building and Sustaining the Campaign against Council Cuts in Derby Schools.</p> <p>Nicole Berrisford, Sue Bonser, Tracey King, Julia Redfern, Becky Everett, Davina Needham</p>	<p>School support staff in Derby - teaching assistants, caretakers and dinner ladies - have been on strike for the last 9 months. We're in this position because Derby City Council took the decision to unilaterally change our terms and conditions, which led to us losing about 25% of our take home pay. For all too many of us, that's meant we're losing hundreds of pounds a month. We're not wealthy or well paid people, most of us are women, and we have been doing our jobs for years. We do what we do because we care about our community, because we care about the kids that we work with and the future of our city. But Derby council clearly don't care about, or respect the work that we do. We're not fighting for a pay rise, or for an easier life. We've been fighting since last year because we just want back what is ours; the terms and conditions we signed up to when we started our jobs. As it is we're being asked to do the same job and the same hours but for hundreds of pounds less a month.</p> <p>UNISON has come up with a solution which would resolve this. The council don't feel that they are able to implement this suggestion and refusing to meaningfully negotiate.</p> <p>This is a decision that has been taken by a Labour council that doesn't represent Labour values. We'll keep fighting for our dignity and the respect that our work deserves. Thank you for your solidarity and your support, it means the world to us</p>

<p>Care Workers for Change – Welcome and campaign workshop</p> <p>UNISON NW Care Workers for Change Team</p>	<p>A reserved session specifically for members and activists employed within the social care sector. This workshop is an opportunity to welcome social care members to the event, to meet each other and to learn more about the Care Workers for Change Campaign. During the session members and organisers will work together to draft concrete plans to build stronger union organisation in social care workplaces.</p>
<p>The Future World of Work – if workers are disappearing, where are the unions? A look into the future world of the workplace activist.</p> <p>Nigel Flanagan</p>	<p>48 million jobs will disappear out of the global economy according to the World Economic Forum, replacing humans with machines that can absorb huge amounts of information way beyond human capacity, replacing Doctors, Teachers, Drivers, Retail Workers and many Public Sector Administration jobs. What is the point of a trade union? This workshop will explore the challenges and how we meet them head on.</p>
<p>Organising Against Austerity – Winning the Argument in the Workplace.</p> <p>Bob Kelly</p>	<p>This Government continues to deploy “Austerity” as the weapon of choice against our public services and those who rely upon them. We can only organise effectively against Austerity once we can confidently explain what the Austerity agenda is about. In this workshop we will dispel some of the myths of Austerity and give participants the knowledge and resources needed to challenge the Austerity agenda with confidence and lead that discussion in the workplace.</p>
<p>Building Power and Winning – Case studies from US and Europe.</p> <p>Valery Alzaga</p>	<p>What does it mean to re-tool, re-skill and realigned our resources to be more effective? How do we organise and campaign more effectively to go from a defensive position to an offensive position? How do we work with community alliances to build power and win? In this session we will look at other unions’ experiences and challenges in order to identify best practices, key lessons and needed skills to become better organising unions.</p>
<p>Social Care Campaign – lessons in organising in unrecognised workplaces</p> <p>UNISON NW Care Workers for Change Team</p>	<p>“Care Workers for Change” is an ambitious campaign to build UNISON membership and organisation within the growing and fragmented social care sector. As the campaign enters its 6th Month, this session provides an opportunity to reflect on lessons learned so far and consider how they can be applied to other workplaces and sectors where the union is not currently recognised. This is a workshop for anyone who wants to see UNISON grow in size and strength – even where it means tackling difficult sectors and hostile employers.</p>

<p>Digital Campaigning, Emails as an Effective Campaign tool</p> <p>Ali Torabi</p>	<p>All of us send and receive loads of emails every day. Many get ignored. So what makes a great email? How can you ensure that your Campaign email is opened, read, and acted upon? Join me, and together we learn how to turbocharge our Organising Campaigns and activity using emails.</p>
<p>Organising for Industrial Action under the Trade Union Act</p> <p>Louise Chinnery</p>	<p>During this workshop we will explore the repressive requirements of the new Trade Union Act and how we can build power and local organisation to win. The workshop will examine how to campaign for a strong yes vote for strike action and developing systematic, creative and escalating action in support of a dispute.</p>
<p>"Going on Offense" Through Bargaining for the Common Good</p> <p>Jono Shaffer</p>	<p>We are living through a momentous economic and societal transition. The shape of our economy has changed dramatically in the last half-century. In the process, the institutions that workers built in the twentieth century to win dignity, security, living wages, and a voice on the job have been drastically weakened, leading to surging inequality and a diminished democracy. If we are to rebuild prosperity and security for workers in the 21st century, we must remake the bargaining process to account for the ways in which our economy has changed. Bargaining for the Common Good seeks to challenge the ways in which financialization, privatization and manufactured austerity have weakened public institutions, undermining both public services and the workers who provide them while redefining the content, processes and goals of collective bargaining, uniting a broad number of actors beyond union members themselves in order to take on the real culprits who are destroying our communities.</p>
<p>Reframing Racism</p> <p>Wilf Sullivan, Chaired by Elizabeth Cameron</p>	<p>This workshop will examine the current narrative on race equality and how it can undermine trade unionists' and anti-racism activists' attempts to combat racial inequality in the labour market, at work and in the community. Evidence shows unemployment rates are higher for Black workers, and at every skill level; they experience greater exposure to insecure employment (e.g. zero hour contracts) and occupation segregation, cross-cut with the gender pay gap and age discrimination. Participants at this event will have the opportunity to discuss 'alternative narratives' that could be developed and to explore how these could be used to improve trade unions' and the TUC's campaigns on race equality in the labour market, the workplace and in the community, and provide new opportunities for anti-racist campaigners.</p>
<p>Building Power through Community Alliances and Leadership</p> <p>Furqan Naeem</p>	<p>This workshop will give a brief overview of the work of Citizens UK including lessons from successful campaigns including the Living Wage and unaccompanied refugee children. It will explore specifically our partnership with Unison North West and how we can involve grassroots communities in campaigns to better tackle UNISON issues such as Social Care. Finally we will take a practical look at how Unison Branches can tailor messages to successfully reach out to potential community allies.</p>

Workshop Facilitator Biographies

<p>Valery Alzaga</p>	<p>Valery is a labour organiser and a social and migrant rights activist. She worked for nine years in the Justice for Janitors Campaign throughout the US and then went on to share and jointly adapt the social unionism model in South Africa, Germany, Denmark, the Netherlands and the UK. She worked at the "Change to Win - European Organising Centre" for eight years, campaigning in various service and emerging economy sectors, including airports, social care and renewable energy sectors. Valery is now working for the Strategic Organising Unit at UNISON, helping develop organising, campaigning capacity and worker organising centres for fragmented privatised workers.</p>
<p>Paula Barker</p>	<p>Paula is UNISON NW Regional Convenor and Branch Secretary of Halton UNISON Branch. Paula Barker is the Regional Convenor for UNISON North West. Paula has served as Regional Convenor for 2 years and prior to that was Deputy Regional Convenor. Within her wider professional background, she is most well-known for working across several local authorities in Merseyside - Liverpool, Knowsley and is now Branch Secretary of Halton Local Government Branch. Paula is committed to the organising agenda and has developed a Regional Compact which has put in place better support for branches by providing more accessibility across quite a disparate geographical footprint.</p>
<p>Nicole Berrisford</p>	<p>Nicole is Branch Secretary of Derby City UNISON Branch and has been at the forefront of the UNISON campaign to defend services, pay and terms and conditions in Derby Schools. Nicole is joined at the Convention by Sue Bonser, Schools Convenor and TA, Tracey King Schools Steward and TA, Julia Redfern, Schools Steward and TA, Becky Everett, Schools Steward and TA, Davina Needham, Schools Steward and TA.</p>
<p>Sarah Boston</p>	<p>Sarah Boston is an award winning documentary film maker and author of "Women Workers and the Trade Unions". Sarah has been a trade union member (ACTT/BECTU) since 1967. Her experience in the early 1970s when she, with a small group of women, challenged their union's discriminatory practices, led her to embark on research into other unions and their history.</p>
<p>Elizabeth Cameron</p>	<p>Elizabeth is a Trade Union and Community activist. Elizabeth is Chair of UNISON North West Regional Black Members' Committee and Women's Committee and is a member of both National Committees and is a member of UNISON's National Executive.</p>
<p>Louise Chinnery</p>	<p>Louise Chinnery is an Education Officer in UNISON's Learning and Organising Services team. Before UNISON Louise organised mostly in private sector workplaces, including a stint working for the Service and Food Workers' Union in New Zealand. Louise is passionate about the power of trade union education and organising to make real change.</p>

Nigel Flanagan	Nigel is a former UNISON activist and Regional Organiser who also worked on the union 3 Companies Project. He now works as a Global Organiser for UNI based in Switzerland, leading union projects all over the world and working with many union affiliates in Africa, Asia and Europe. He is an optimistic Leeds United fan and his twitter account is @NigelUNI
Sarah Glenister	Sarah is National Development Officer for the Institute of Employment Rights, a think tank for the labour movement that brings together leading academics, lawyers and trade unionists from across the UK to develop progressive policy proposals around workers' rights. In 2016, the IER published the <u>Manifesto for Labour Law: towards a comprehensive revision of workers' rights</u> - 25 recommendations with the overarching aim of shifting the focus of labour law from statutory individual rights to collective agreed wages and conditions. In 2016, the Labour Party announced it had adopted the Manifesto as its blueprint for future employment legislation.
Roger McKenzie	Roger has been an Assistant General Secretary of UNISON for just over 6 years. He has responsibility for organising, recruitment, as well as activist and membership education. Roger is a member of the TUC General Council and the Unionlearn board. Prior to his current post Roger was the UNISON Regional Secretary in the West Midlands. Before that he worked for the TUC, firstly in the role as race equality officer and then as the Midlands Regional Secretary. Roger also has a background as a trade union education tutor in both Manchester and London. Roger is a long suffering Aston Villa season ticket holder and is an avid jazz enthusiast.
Bob Kelly	Bob is the Regional Education Organiser for UNISON NW. With over 20 years experience of working in trade union education Bob has taught courses from basic reps courses to TUC Diplomas. Bob has a particular interest in Labour History and is on a mission to convince trade unionists that Economics is not a difficult subject.
Furqan Naeem	Furqan is a campaigner and political activist passionate about social justice. He is currently a community organiser for Citizens UK, tasked with setting up and establishing Greater Manchester Citizens - a new alliance of community groups ranging from trade unions, faith groups, schools, colleges, students unions, housing associations, among others, all coming together to work for the common good. He previously worked for Stronger on the European Referendum, the Labour party for Sadiq Khan's Mayoral campaign, Friends of the Earth as a climate change campaigner and was a Campaigns Director for the charity Penny Appeal.
Kevan Nelson	Kevan has been North West Regional Secretary since 2011, before that he was a Regional Organiser in Wales and Director of the Executive Office at UNISON head office. Prior to 2002 he was North West Regional Convenor and a UNISON Branch Convenor/Secretary for 15 years

Jono Shaffer	Jono has been a union organizer with SEIU, the AFL-CIO and ACTWU for 30 years. He was the first organiser hired on the Los Angeles Justice for Janitors campaign in 1987 and led the project from 1991 – 1996. He developed and helped lead successful industry-wide organising campaigns in the healthcare industry, with airport workers and private security officers. The security campaign won historic victories for security officers in many of America's largest cities including Los Angeles, New York, Chicago, Boston, the Bay Area, Seattle, Minneapolis and Washington DC and it was the first campaign in history to win global organising rights for workers employed by multi-national employers in the service sector. Since 2007 he has been working on community/labour campaigns in numerous cities around the United States that go on offense to hold corporations and the finance industry accountable for the defunding of public services and communities. [Side note: He is the person actor Adrian Brody's character is modelled after in the Ken Loach movie Bread and Roses]
Hadeel Shatara	Hadeel is a young organiser and project coordinator with the Fuad Nasser Association and the Knowledge and Socialist Thought Institute. Hadeel is currently working with Palestinian Unions on a campaign for a minimum wage. Hadeel is a member of the Palestinian People's Party and the Secretary of the youth group of the PPP in Ramallah and is active within the Palestinian Working Women Society for Development. An Economics graduate, Hadeel is just starting a Masters degree in Economics in Birzeit University.
Wilf Sullivan	Wilf Sullivan has worked for the TUC since December 2004 as TUC Race Equality Officer. He was appointed by NALGO (now UNISON) as a Regional full-time officer in 1990. He worked as UNISON's National Black Members Officer from 2000 before moving to the TUC as the Race Equality Policy Officer. He is active on race equality and migration policy matters both inside and outside of the trade union movement. He is Treasurer of the UK Race and Europe Network and a Trustee of the New Economics Organisers Network and sits on a number of race equality research academic advisory boards including membership of the Advisory Committee for Centre on Dynamics Ethnicity at the University of Manchester.
Ali Torabi	Ali is a digital campaigner and a storyteller. He has worked at campaigning organisation 38 Degrees, an energy start-up the Big Deal and now is a Digital Campaigner at the TUC and the Chair of human rights charity RightsInfo.org. At 38 Degrees, Ali worked on Campaigns by You platform and helped dozens of grassroots campaigns, and with the Big Deal, he brought people power into the energy market. At the TUC he tells stories of the trade union movement through campaigns like ❤️UNIONS.

Glen Williams	Branch Secretary of Sefton Local Government, NW Regional President and Chair of National Local Government SGE, Glen is also an active Member of the Regional International Committee who organises the yearly Educational Holocaust Study Tour to Auschwitz. Glen has made numerous films and educational materials for our union on international issues such as South Africa, Cuba and the Holocaust and was invited to re-visit Palestine in 2016. Glen has produced a powerful and harrowing short film for our Region – ‘Palestine, West Bank War Zone’ depicting the daily oppression of those living in the West Bank. LFC season ticket holder and keen squash player happy to take on all challengers!!
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