

Access All Areas in Scotland

The newsletter for UNISON Scotland Disabled Members



Issue 1 Summer 2013

Welcome to Issue 1

A warm welcome to what we hope will be the first of many newsletters from UNISON Scotland Disabled Members Committee.

In this edition we will report on the National Delegates Conference, list training courses which may be of benefit, up and coming dates for your diary and how to contact us.

National Delegates Conference 2013

UNISON undertook to campaign for disability hate crime to be treated in the same way as other forms of hate crime, calling on Police and Crime Commissioners to make such offences a priority.

There are thousands of incidents every week of physical abuse or harassment against people because of their physical disability, sensory impairment, learning disability or mental health.

Proposing the motion, Suzanne Williams of the national disabled members committee, told delegates that



"disability hate crime has no place in 21st century Britain."

She said it was vital that disability hate crime be punished with the

same severity as other hate crimes. At the same time, UNISON needed to offer branches and stewards information that would help them support disabled members in the workplace, for example when seeking time off to recover from physical attacks, and to receive counselling.

Isobel McVicar of the NEC commented that "hate crime of whatever kind is shocking to anyone who believes in a civilized society. But disability hate crime targets the most vulnerable in our society, many who are unable to speak up for themselves or are not listened to by the authorities."

She cited the example of Fiona Pilkington, who killed herself and her daughter in 2007 after suffering years of attacks and harassment by local youths. "Fiona had complained to police for 10 years and been ignored. She could see no way out. But if police had taken action the situation could have been so different, and she could still be alive now."

UNISON Police Staff Scotland's Brian

Molloy, backing the National Disabled Members Committee motion, highlighted that legislation to combat disability hate crime has existed in Scotland since 2010,

Brian explained "If a crime is perceived to be a hate crime by the victim or any other person, including a police officer, it should be recorded and investigated as such."

Hate crime in whatever form, including disability hate crime, is a priority of the Police Service of Scotland."



"We ask Conference to lobby the UK Government with a view to similar legislation being

passed to protect all victims of hate crime, especially disability hate crime which affects the most vulnerable of our society."

UNISON Scotland Disabled Member's Committee Welcomes Independent Living in Scotland's Pam Duncan.



On Saturday 1st June Unison Scotland Disabled Members Committee welcomed Pam Duncan, Project Policy Officer, Independent Living in Scotland. Pam had been invited to address the committee on the work being carried out by the project and gave an interesting and informative presentation on the latest of ILiS' solution series entitled

“Politically (in)correct – representation of disabled people in politics”

which sought solutions to the under-representation of disabled people in politics.

A discussion also took place on the subject of a future ILiS “Think Tank” regarding Harassment in the workplace where the Committee intimated their wish to be involved in any sessions.



Pam later TWEETED **“Great Discussion at @UNISONScot disabled members committee this morning on disability harassment in the workplace”**

Further information on the work of Independent Living in Scotland can be found at www.ilis.co.uk.

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Dates For Your Diary

UNISON Scotland Disabled Members Committee TBC	Saturday 31 August 2013
Disabled Members' Conference 2013 Manchester Central Convention Complex	Saturday 26 October 2013 Monday 28 October 2013
STUC Disabled Workers Conference Apex Hotel, Dundee	Saturday 2 November 2013 Sunday 3 November 2013
UNISON Scotland Disabled Members AGM STUC Buildings, 333 Woodlands Road Glasgow	Saturday 9 November 2013

Join our Mailing List?
If you would like to Join our Mailing List please forward your full details to Eileen Dinning, UNISON Scotland Equalities Officer, UNISON House, 14 West Campbell Street, Glasgow, G2 6RX. Email e.dinning@unison.co.uk

The following are training courses that may be of interest to Disabled Members.

UNISON Training courses

Scottish

- ◆ Absence Management & Capability
- ◆ Equality Reps
- ◆ Employment Law – Discrimination
- ◆ Mental Health Awareness for Trade Union Representatives

National Activist Education Programme

- ◆ Disability Discrimination Law
(course held in Central London)



6-8 September Lorne Hotel, Glasgow

Come along and learn new skills to help your Branch be more effective campaigners using performance skills to develop and deliver campaign plans. Entertainment included!

Friday Night - Mark Thomas, Eleanor Morton Compere - Susan Morrison

Saturday - all day Workshops (including 2 from Mark Thomas) covering strategic campaigning, media handling, using social media, cartooning, video-making, stand-up comedy, song-writing, public speaking etc.

Saturday Night - Workshop outputs, Learn and Do followed by The Mobilise Show Compere - Susan Morrison with comedy from Michael Redmond and guests as well as music and song from Arthur Johnstone, Fraser Speirs and Stephen Wright.

Sunday - More workshops and a mock radio phone-in with Susan Morrison and special guests

For costs and how to apply see:

www.unison-scotland.org.uk/mobilise13

For further information regarding dates of the above courses members should consult with UNISON ACTIVISTS Education Programme.



COMING SOON

UNISON Disabled Members Committee are currently working on a new format for our website. Once on-Line we will strive to keep members up to date with current issues that effect them.

If there is anything you would wish to see on the web site please contact the committee with your suggestions.

Contact us via:

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