

Chair's Message

Dear Readers,
As a result of our Chair Hamid Rasheed's recent cardiac episode, I am writing this editorial as your acting Chair.

We thank you all for sending messages and wishing Hamid a speedy recovery. The good news we have is that, Hamid is fast recovering, and will be back to work soon.

The BNP is a menace; we voted against the party, because we disagree with the BNP's politics of hate! It is therefore important for us to sign the petition and express our disappointment.

The EWJF report on the UNISON hosted event is to highlight the need for a better global financial system, health for all and fair trade, which is vital to end poverty, by creating jobs, ensuring justice and climate stability via a green economy.

In line with UNISON Scotland; the Scottish Black Members support the democratic movement in Burma. The story in this newsletter aims to build awareness, to generate support, to end repression and restore human & labour rights to the people in Burma.

I would also like to draw to your attention the UNISON Scotland Black Members Training weekend that is scheduled to take place in September this year.

It through education that we can help overcome the obstacles that face us. I would encourage you all to take part in this valuable training course.

Patricia Agu (Vice Chair)
Scottish Black Members

NOT IN MY NAME

STAND UP TO THE POLITICS OF HATE

We would like to thank everybody for voting in the European Election. In Scotland, the BNP were driven into 7th place however two BNP candidates were elected, one in North West England and another in Yorkshire & Humberside Region. We are urging everyone to sign the Hope not Hate petition.



Message from Dave Prentis, UNISON general secretary:

It is a huge disappointment that the far right, racist BNP has won two seats in the European Parliament and three county council seats. The politics of hate do not belong in any parliament or council, they belong in the gutter.

The BNP does not speak for me, nor does it speak for the overwhelming majority of people in this country.

The mainstream political parties must now start re-connecting with ordinary voters and address their fears. A failure of those parties resulted in many people staying home and allowing the BNP in through the back door.

These are difficult times with anger directed at our politicians and a growing recession devastating people's lives.

However, this union, and millions who share our values will continue to stand for what is right and decent, to celebrate diversity and tolerance, and we will not waiver in our campaign against the BNP.

I urge everyone to sign the Hope not Hate petition:

NICK GRIFFIN: NOT IN MY NAME
The BNP have won seats in the European Parliament - but they do not represent Britain
Sign our petition - show that you stand against racism and division

BLACK MEMBERS TRAINING

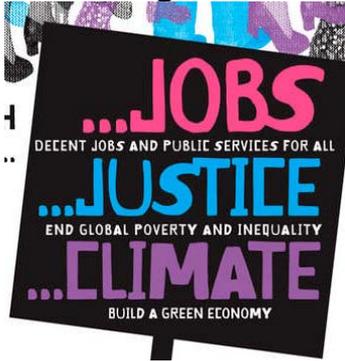
The Black Members Training Weekend is formulated and delivered by members of the Scottish Black Members Committee. Patricia Agu, SBMC Vice-Chair said "The Black members training in UNISON Scotland is unique. We ask the Scottish branches for their support in sending their Black members to the training, which is specifically designed to match both Scottish new and seasoned Black members training needs".

For further information, please contact your Branch Education Officer or call 0141 342 2833 and ask for a member of the Learning & Organising Unit.

The next training weekend is to be held on 25-27 September 2009 in Edinburgh.

BUILDING JUSTICE OUT OF CRISIS

Edinburgh World Justice Festival Report by Nahid Aslam



UNISON hosted the BUILDING JUSTICE OUT OF CRISIS event as part of the Edinburgh World Justice Festival on the 22nd May 2009. The event was chaired by Mike Kirby, Convenor, UNISON Scotland and it was well attended, with many UNISON members present. Speakers included the Secretary for State for International Development - Douglas Alexander MP, Allyson Pollock, Centre for International Public Health Policy, Edinburgh University and Benedict Southworth from the World Development Movement (WDM).

Alexander stated that the global financial system was important for the global poor. The World Bank was necessary for development. However Pollock reminded the audience that Britain's wealth was built on the back of slavery and imperialism, and the way that the World Bank worked to promote Trade Liberalisation in developing countries was nothing short of imperialism in another form. It did not protect countries or workers because of the unfair power relations embedded in its philosophy.

The question of 'Health for All' came up and we were informed that Health Facilities available in poorer countries were fragmented. Facilities provided by DFID were linked to trade rather than genuine need. Sanitation and nutrition are essentials, yet expensive medicines that benefit the West are what is promoted.

Southworth stated that trade was necessary to get people out of poverty. But the Market needed to be civilised and this was the task of the Left. The audience was asked 'What can we in the UK / Scotland do?' Fair Trade is the most advanced in the UK as compared to other EU countries. Could we be more forceful in pushing this idea on our EU partners? Also should we work to increase the Fair Trade product range?

The Event was informative, giving plenty of time for questions and answers. Many thanks to Matthew Crighton and his ID team for organising it.

Editor's Corner

Lui Giacomello

Summer is here so that means rain for us in Scotland! Don't let the BNP rain on your parade – join up, join in and encourage your colleagues to join UNISON. The more we are organised, the easier it will be to overcome injustice. Find out more at: www.unison.org.uk/acrobat/17327.pdf

Housing Advice

Free, independent and multilingual housing advice and information for refugees, asylum seekers, EU migrants and people from ethnic minorities.

Location: Positive Action in Housing, 6th floor, 98 West George Street, Glasgow G2 1PJ Tel: 0141 353 2220 email: home@paih.org / www.paih.org

MIGRANT WORKERS NEWSLETTER

Read the latest issue online www.unison.org.uk/migrantworkers/newsletter003.asp

HAPPY BIRTHDAY AUNG SAN SUU KYI



More than 2,000 delegates at the UNISON national conference in Brighton donned masks of Burma pro-democracy leader Aung San Suu Kyi in protest at her continued detention by the Burmese military.

It was a show of solidarity and support for the National League for Democracy leader on the eve of her 64th birthday. During the masked protest, UNISON Vice-President, Angela Lynes, read out a message calling for Suu Kyi's immediate release and for the Burmese Government to end the "repression" of its people and respect human and labour rights.

www.unison.org.uk/international/pages_view.asp?did=8955

www.unison.org.uk/video/video.asp?did=8959

ENGLISH FOR YOU

UNISON has allocated resources to deliver English for You – a course for UNISON members without English as their first language. We are encouraging migrant members to register and promote this course to other members who you think might benefit from this course.

This is a course for UNISON members only. It is provided free of charge. UNISON will pay travel expenses and help with child care/dependant costs. Contact your Regional Education Team on 0845 355 0845 for more information.