

## 16th STUC Black Workers' Conference



UNISON members actively took part in the 16th STUC Black Workers' Conference and

successfully moved two motions. The Conference took place on the 6th - 7th October in

Glasgow. At the conference, some twenty motions (four composite motions) came under debate. The conference programme included many presentations and speeches on Black issues.

Bev Miller, Chairperson – National Black Members Committee moved a UNISON motion about 'Spending cuts and the disproportionate effects on the unemployed black people' to highlight the impact of cuts in public services, on Black and Disabled employees.

Fahd Ali Asif, a first time speaker, moved the second UNISON motion on 'Changes to the equality act and black disabled people'. Fahd urged the conference to challenge this assault on equality and rights of the vulnerable. Ismail Donmez spoke in support of an international motion, which was about 'Northern Cyprus embargoes'.

In addition to that, Hamid Rasheed (UNISON Delegation Leader) supported a motion to counter the Scottish Defence League. Hamid referred to the recent assault on the dignity of the Prophet Mohammed and made it clear that messages of hate on religious grounds are not acceptable!

Priscilla Maramba, another UNISON first time speaker, also contributed to the debate on education and racism.

In terms of objectives, the conference was successful; both UNISON motions were carried successfully and Ismail Donmez was duly elected to attend next year's STUC Conference.

**"Our Scotland ... Beyond Colour"**



# "A Future That Works" - March & Rally



The Scottish Black Members Group of UNISON calls upon its members to take part in 'A Future That Works' March and Rally. The March and Rally is organised by the STUC and it will take place at George Square, Glasgow at 11.00am on Saturday 20th of October.

Patricia Agu Chair SBMC said: "UNISON and all STUC affiliated trade unions are taking part in the March and the Rally to send a strong message across, that - austerity isn't working, the cuts are not necessary - and we want A Future That Works."

For UNISON arrangements, please contact the Bargaining and Campaigns Team:

Dave Watson: [d.watson@unison.co.uk](mailto:d.watson@unison.co.uk)

## Hope Not Hate Campaign

The Scottish Black Members attended the Hope not Hate campaign's foundation meeting, on the evening of 20th September, in Glasgow.

The meeting was attended by a large number of trade union activists, community groups and members of civil society.

The meeting was chaired by Richard Leonard Regional Political Officer of GMB Scotland. This



interactive

meeting provided an opportunity for those present, to listen and ask question to a panel of esteemed speakers.

The speakers list included, Glasgow City Councillor Bill Butler, Muzafar Hussain Vice Chair STUC Black Workers Committee, Vicky Burns Campaign Manager for Show Racism the Red Card Campaign, and Matthew Collins of the 'Hope not Hate' campaign.



The meeting was successful in setting up a local group in Glasgow, with a resolve to counter racism and fascism in the city. At the meeting it was also agreed that by working together we must keep 'Scotland' free from racism and fascism.

# “A Just Scotland” – Consultation Events

UNISON Black members took part in ‘A Just Scotland’ events organised by STUC at various venues around Scotland.

The idea behind the consultative events was to seek public feedback on various themes such as equality, environment, legislation, employment and many other issues that may affect Scottish publics.



The consultative events provided an opportunity to participants, to have their say about future of the Scotland.

In addition to that, the participants were also provided with an opportunity to engage in a debate.

# Scottish International Committee Newsletter

The Scottish Black Members contributed to the Scottish International Seminar, which took place on 15<sup>th</sup> September 2012, in Glasgow. The SBMC members Fahd Ali Asif and Hamid Rasheed were instrumental in bringing out the (SIC) Scottish International Committee's newsletter, to build awareness about the international work done by the committee. The SIC newsletter can be seen at the UNISON Scotland website.

# Cuba Solidarity Campaign - Glasgow

The Black members remembered Che by taking part in a Cuba Solidarity event in Glasgow in the evening of 14<sup>th</sup> September 2012.

The members felt speech of Dr Aleida Guevara (the eldest daughter of Ernesto Ché Guevara) speech was inspirational, in building awareness about Cuba's achievements in the field of Health, Education, and Environment during the economic blockade by the US.



The Scottish Black Members Committee continues to implement two main objectives:

- To raise a positive profile of the Committee within UNISON
- To increase involvement of Black members, within Scottish UNISON

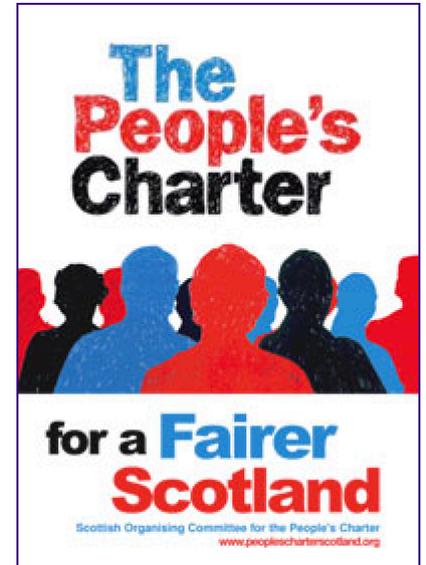
# Sign the e-petition for a fairer society

In the build up to the STUC's A Future that Works March in Glasgow on 20 October the Scottish People's Charter is stepping up its campaign – with the support of UNISON Scotland.

On 17 September a petition was launched through the Scottish Parliament urging the Scottish Government “to bring forward measures in all areas it has competency to fulfill the aspirations of the People's Charter”. [Click here to sign the online petition](#)

The People's Charter sets out six key steps for a move away from austerity to a more just, equitable society:

1. A fair economy for a fairer Britain
2. More and better jobs
3. Decent homes for all
4. Protect and improve our public services – no cuts
5. Fairness and Justice
6. Build a secure and sustainable future for all



[Click here](#) to add your name to the growing list of supporters of the People's Charter. Every week until the 20 October demo each of these Charter demands has been highlighted by a key supporter. “Protect and improve our public services – no cuts” is the focus for UNISON.

UNISON is supporting the People's Charter in Scotland as part of our work to build the case for the alternative to austerity. It sits alongside campaigns like our own Public Works campaign and the STUC's There is A Better Way.

As we mobilise for the big demo on 20 October and as part of our Stronger Together recruitment initiative this autumn we are out and about meeting members and potential members - and taking the message to them: austerity isn't working or necessary.

We want A Future That Works. Get out and demonstrate on 20 October [www.stuc.org.uk/20-oct](http://www.stuc.org.uk/20-oct)

## Scottish Black Members Group's AGM



Annual General Meeting of the Scottish Black Members Group will take place at the Scottish Parliament, in Edinburgh on Saturday 17 November 2012, from 10.30 am – 1.30 pm. The AGM provides Scottish Black Members an opportunity to elect their 'Working Committee' to engage in consultations on issues affecting Black people. If you are interested to attend the AGM, then please get in touch with you branch. The AGM delegate forms are with your branch and it is your branch's responsibility to cover your travel and subsistence costs. However, the Scottish Black Members Committee will provide lunch just after the AGM closes. The AGM call out notice and important forms can be down loaded from our UNISON Scotland website, very soon.

### Editor's Corner...

We would like to invite your comments about our newsletter. Please send your comments to Fahd Ali Asif c/o Eileen Dinning UNISON House 14 West Campbell, Glasgow, G2 6RX.