

Scotland Region Annual Report 2012

Our Committee is made up of 5 male and 5 female members who work in local government, health, higher education, energy, police and voluntary sector. We are elected at our AGM which takes place in October. We meet four times a year. All of our members are active branch stewards and we ensure all equality issues are mainstreamed in our branches and on the local, regional and national bodies we sit on. We fill all the reserved LGBT seats on regional committees such as International, Learning & Organising and Communications & Campaigns.

This has been another busy year for the Scottish LGBT Committee. Recruitment has been our priority and members of the committee have attended various events to speak to existing and potential members.

We have filled our reserved bi seat and we continue to work on other underrepresented groups.

Further to motion 21 which was passed at last year's conference, we have been involved in a feasibility study about reopening an LGBT centre in Glasgow. There will be recruitment opportunities for us due to the number of voluntary sector organisations involved in this exercise.

We continue to be involved with the West of Scotland LGBT forum, Gay Men's Health, LGBT Switchboard, Glasgow Women's Library, the SWAN network where we have attended events at the Scottish Government and the Law Society of Scotland, Defend Glasgow Services and we have been present on marches against public sector cuts, pension disputes and demonstrations against far right organisations such as BNP and SDL. We linked with UAF at Glasgow and Edinburgh Pride events and will continue to attend relevant demos and give reciprocal support.

We are a long-time supporter of Glasgay! Following on from last year's successful backing of the event, we continue our high profile association with this festival, as it carries UNISON's message to hundreds of Glasgay! attendees at the performances, and many thousands via our advert in the programme. The LGBT committee has a representative on the Glasgay! board as we have had a long and fruitful connection with this important festival. This year's theme is questioning acts of union and will focus on the personal and political and how LGBT people define themselves in the 21st century.

This work links our activities in challenging homophobia in the workplace, welcoming LGBT workmates and challenging homophobia in Scottish society and assists branches in developing greater community cohesion.

In addition these activities are used to gather support for the Million Voices campaign and Public Works, the Scottish arm of the campaign, making sure community groups and voluntary organisations are aware of importance of public services in, and coming out of, a recession.

This year we have also worked closely with the Equality Network on the Equal Marriage Campaign and our members have been actively speaking to MSPs as well as the public to win this important debate.

UNISON Scotland is affiliated to ILGA and our members are supported to attend conferences at ILGA Europe and ILGA World.

Elaine Duffy and David Calderwood, Scotland Regional Reps

500 words.