

# South East Regional Black members



# Newsletter 2022 UNISON



Hello everyone, my name is Susan Cooper-Olawale and I have recently been elected as the Black members officer for Kent Local Government area. I am also a member of the South East Black members committee, and the Education school convenor for over 640 schools in Kent.

The reason why I decided to become active in the Union is because I realised that there were a lot of health and safety issues and workplace issues that needed addressing, especially racism. I wanted to make an impact in eradicating racism from the workplace.

Therefore, I completed the stewards training, so I could represent members at meetings regarding negotiating for better pay and conditions, sick absences, grievances, settlement agreements, mergers, and TUPE consultations.

I am also involved in reviewing policies. One policy I would like to push for is a Racial Equality policy which would be separate from the general Equalities policy which covers all protected group. Training will need to be given to employers in the workplace how to deal properly with racial incidents, as a lot of cases are not handled properly or are thrown under the radar. I realise there is a lot of work to be done, but I am eager for the challenge.

I recently attended a UNISON Black Members Leadership group pilot programme in London which recognised that not enough Black people are found in leadership roles. The programme seeks to address this and give us the tools to overcome this imbalance. I met a lot of exciting people on the programme, one of which was Margaret Greer, National Officer, Race Equality.

Attached are photos we took at the event.





## **Events celebrating Black History Month**

**Dolcie Obhiozele, SE Regional Black members Committee member talks about Black History Month**

**Episode 1 Introduction – When you think of Black History Month**

<https://youtu.be/DY4Df1Z7Mzk>

**Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> October**

**South West Black History Event**

10am to 2pm

St Vincent Rocks, Clifton

Guided by Dr Edson Burton, join the Regional Black Members Committee on a walking tour of Bristol's Clifton Slavery past

Details: <https://southwest.unison.org.uk/events/black-history-trail/>

Come join us at [Black History in the Making – Power and Unity](#)

**Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> October 18:45pm to 22:00pm Camden 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Gala**

Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> October 18:45pm to 22:00pm

After party 22:00pm to 01:00am

Please find the URL link to purchase tickets through Eventbrite:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/cbwg-40th-anniversary-gala-celebration-tickets-427066416147>

**Friday, 28<sup>th</sup> October 2022 12.30 - 1.30**

**UNISON Southampton District Branch Celebrates Black History Month**

**ONLINE EVENT VIA TEAMS**

To confirm attendance email Gwen Gordon for TEAMS link:

**[unison@southampton.gov.uk](mailto:unison@southampton.gov.uk)**

**Friday 28<sup>th</sup> October 2022 Enfield Unison Black Members Group Present Black History Month Celebration Friday 28<sup>th</sup> October 2022**

Enfield Civic Centre, Conference Room, Silver Street London Enfield EN1 3XA

19:00 – 22:00

The guest speaker on the evening will be the renowned author Robin Walker of the book, 'When We Ruled' plus others.

For further details please contact UNISON Enfield Black Workers Group

**SATURDAY 29th OCTOBER, 10 - 3PM**

**UNISON EAST MIDLANDS REGIONAL BLACK MEMBERS COMMITTEE**

INVITE YOU TO OUR BLACK HISTORY MONTH EVENT SATURDAY 29th OCTOBER, 10 - 3PM, AFRI CAN CARIBBE AN CENTR E, MAIDSTONE ROAD, LEICESTER, LE2 0UA  
"BLACK HISTORY IS WORLD HISTORY"

WE WILL BE JOINED BY OUR MAIN GUEST SPEAKER MICHELLE CODRINGTON-ROGERS FORMER PRESIDENT NASUWT, PL US, OTHERS;

Details for the East Midlands Black Members Network event is here:

<https://eastmidlands.unison.org.uk/black-history-month-2022>

**The West Midlands Regional Black Members SOG** have announced that tickets for this year's Black History Month events are now available. The tickets are FREE and it is easy to register, so go ahead and register for your places now by clicking on the below link.

**Find our events > [Black Members Events | UNISON West Midlands](#)**

**Saturday 29th October NEC Birmingham event**

In spite of all the challenges that we faced we have managed to secure the NEC Birmingham so please join us to celebrate the Biggest Black History Event of 2022! Because of the great news we are doing half price tickets!! Only £1 for children and just £2.50 for adults using this code: BHABExpo50%OFF More on the door!

This is the link for tickets:

<https://blackhistoryactivitybooks.com/event/black-history-activity-books-the-trinity-2022/>

**Saturday 29th October**

At: The NEC Birmingham

In Hall 8 from 12-8pm

All Existing Ticket holders can use your tickets for this event!!

**Sunday 30th October** 14:00hrs - 16:00hrs

**Portsmouth:**

The past 12/18 months have seen some exceptional Black people do exceedingly well in Portsmouth and as such Portsmouth Black History Committee will be holding a portrait exhibition celebrating their work which has had a social impact on hundreds of residents in the city. The committee would like to thank these individuals for their dedication and work to the people of Portsmouth. The exhibition is curated by local photographer Olufemi Olaiya and will be held at the Aspex Gallery Gunwharf.

Event	Local Black People Portrait Exhibition
Location	Aspex Gallery, The Vulcan Building, Gunwharf PO1 3BF
<b>Date</b>	<b>Sunday 30th October</b>
Time	14:00hrs - 16:00hrs

Please book your free ticket via Eventbrite -

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/portsmouth-black-history-portrait-exhibition-and-celebration>



Across the UK, UNISON branches, employers and community groups will be celebrating the history of Black people in the workplace by organising workshops and events for Black History Month. Black History Month is an opportunity to provide information about the perspectives and experiences of Black people, promote multiculturalism, and acknowledge Black peoples' contributions to British society and history.

**What you can do in your branch:**

Your branch can get involved in Black History Month activities following some of the examples given here or using your own ideas.

- Organise an open-house event at your branch.
- Invite Black members to come along and learn about the work of UNISON and how it benefits them.
- Provide refreshments and ensure the venue is accessible.
- Get you branch committee involved

Need help and support/advice: [contact us](#)

<https://www.blackhistorymonth.org.uk/>

## 2023 National Black Members Conference

20 – 22 January 2023

The Exchange, Edinburgh

<https://www.unison.org.uk/events/2023-nbmc/>



Talk to your Branch if you would like to attend.

