# Minutes of the Tower Hamlets UNISON AGM 2023

***12.30 Wednesday 8 March, Town Hall Council Chamber and on Teams***

## AGENDA

**1● Guest Speakers:**
**Helen Davies, UNISON National Executive**

**2● Minutes.**
**To approve the minutes of the 2022 AGM**

**3● Annual Report.**
**-To approve the 2022 Annual Report**
**-Nomination of retiring Branch Secretary for Honorary life membership of UNISON**

**4● Financial Estimates and Budget 2023.**
**To approve 2023 budget**

**5● Motions**

**6 ●Branch Elections**

**7 ●Any other urgent business**

## Motions

## 1) Pay and Cost of Living Crisis

**This Branch notes**:

1) The devastating impact on living standards for ordinary people created by the cost-of-living crisis;

2) That for public sector workers this has come on top of more than a decade of declining real pay, leading to staff shortages in many critical areas;

3) That the government that claims decent pay cannot be afforded for public services workers has presided over handouts for the rich, including gross profiteering from the Covid crisis and unprecedented corporate profits based in particular on energy companies cashing in on record prices;

4) The growing tide of resistance across the Trade Union movement from rail and postal workers to teachers, health workers, including groups of workers who have never previously taken national strike action like nurses, physiotherapists and midwives. This is despite the massive barriers put in the way of Trade Unions being able to take lawful industrial strike action in the UK, including the requirement to achieve 50% turnouts in ballots;

5) That the Tory response is to seek to impose still further restrictions on the right to strike though their "Minimum Service Standards Bill".

6) That despite this the momentum over pay is growing with 1 February being the largest day of strike action across unions for many years, the largest strike action ever seen in the NHS, and further unions like the FBU recording massive turnouts and yes votes.

**This Branch resolves**

A) To fully support the claim for NJC pay for Council and School workers for a pay increase of RPI inflation plus 2% to prevent further erosion of our real pay and make up for some of what has been lost since 2008.

B) To start the process now of getting ballot ready to enable us to beat the 50% ballot threshold if Local Government employers do not make an acceptable offer on pay

C) To call for members to become local contacts or "pay champions" to support that process
To continue to support local picket lines of other unions and all initiatives to increase solidarity and co-ordination across unions

D) To donate £5,000 to current live disputes (Branch Officers to determine how to allocate between disputes).

E) To support the call made by the NEU for a national demonstration on budget day, Wednesday 15th March, during their scheduled two days of strike action on 15/16 March, to encourage members to attend and organise delegations

F) To oppose the introduction of Minimum Service Standards and support members and other trade unions in resisting them should the bill be passed into law.

## 2) Year of the Black Worker

This Branch welcomes the fact that UNISON has made 2023 "The Year of the Black Worker". Racism continues to be a blight on black people's lives in work and in our communities.

We believe that an effective anti-racist strategy must deal with every aspect of discrimination at work including recruitment, selection and promotion; redundancy; bullying and harassment; developing black leaders at every level and the ethnicity pay gap. It must also address the impact of racism across society which impacts on equality in every aspect of life.

We recognise that the Year of the Black Worker takes place at a time when the Tory government is again ramping up a hostile atmosphere for migrants and refugees.

Home Secretary Suella Braverman's refusal to fully accept and implement the recommendations of the review into how the Windrush scandal unfolded, including establishing a migrant's Commissioner, or to even participate in reconciliation events, sends a powerful message of disregard for injustices suffered. The increasing ramping up of attacks on refugees and asylum seekers, including the so far failed attempts to send asylum seekers to Rwanda, are a blatant attempt to scapegoat them for the social crisis the Tories have created.

We resolve:

To call on Branch Officers to:

1) Develop a plan of action to integrate all aspects of tacking racism at work into UNISON's bargaining agenda;

2) Encourage and support further development of black leaders in the workplace;

3) Support the organisation of a major event in Tower Hamlets for Black History Month

We further resolve:

A) To continue to support local anti-racist initiatives

B) To support and build for the Global Day of Action on UN anti-racism day, and the demonstration in London on Saturday 18 March.

## Branch Elections

Elected unopposed

| | |
|---|---|
| **Secretary** | **Kerie Anne** |
| **Chair** | **Mario Kyriacou/ Amina Patel** |
| **Assistant Secretaries (up to 4)** | **Steve Evans** |
| | **Justine Kohl** |
| **Treasurer** | **Michaela Knight** |
| **Health & Safety Officer** | **Kieran Floyd** |
| **Welfare Officer** | **Sharmine Kanabar** |
| **Labour Link officer** | **Oliver Kianchehr** |
| **Communications Officer** | **Marcelo Novilo** |
| **Equalities Officer** | **Shola Ogunlade** |
| **Delegates for Local Govt Conference (4) & National Delegate Conference** | **Kerie Anne<br>Sharmine Kanabar<br>Wendy Harris<br>Dionna Motley<br>Amina Patel** |

### Other Nominations sought

Assistant Branch Secretary, Education Officer, Social Officer, International Officer, Young Members Officer, Retired Members, Auditors

## Budget for 2023

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|---|---|---|
| Funding | **99,253.67** | |
| Locally collected subs | **2,163** | |
| Retired Members | **120** | |
| Unemployed Members | **4** | |
| | **101,541** | **101,541** |
| Salaries, Pensions, Tax & NI | **88,956** | |
| Admin and postage | **2,000** | |
| Conf & Meets | **7,000** | |
| Other Meets | **1,000** | |
| Publicity | **6,000** | |
| Local Activities | **1,000** | |
| Education | **500** | |
| Donations | **2,500** | |
| Affiliations | **500** | |
| Activists Expenses | **500** | |
| Other | **2,000** | |
| Audit | **300** | |
| IT | **1,050** | |
| | **113,306** | **113,306** |
| | | **-11,765** |
| General Fund Balance at 31 December 2022 | **120,693.88** | |
| IAF balance at 31 December 2022 | **1,620,347.67** | |

Affiliations: Palestinian Solidarity Campaign, Stand Up To Racism, Campaign Against Climate Change, CND, Homes for All, Tower Hamlets Trades Council