



National Newsletter



No.11 Spring 2021

Well what a year it has been. Sadly it has been one where many of our colleagues and family members have lost their lives to this dreadful pandemic. One year on, we commemorate with a minutes' silence those who have been taken from us, and we honour those who have lost their lives whilst fighting to protect others on the frontline.

UNISON is One Team and every member plays their part in keeping services running. No matter what your job role, we are proud of every single one of you for your hard work and dedication to our public services.

We are heartened that the vaccination program gives us hope for the future and some light at the end of this very long tunnel.



Ongoing Pandemic

The LGBT+ community has been severely impacted by the ongoing restrictions and the effect of Covid-19. The unprecedented economical impact of the virus brings fear of further cuts to already insufficient services and a detrimental impact on the provision of established LGBT+ services, reducing availability of services at a time when people are experiencing increasing levels of stress and isolation as a result of the virus. This is further heightened in rural areas where people have to travel to towns and cities for essential services.

We must fight to ensure a safe and effective Covid-19 response to protect the physical and mental well-being of LGBT+ people in our community by putting pressure on the Scottish Government to ensure and prioritise the protection of LGBT+ services across health and social care, mental health and third sector and develop these services in areas where there are none.

We will be taking a motion to STUC LGBT+ workers conference to support this work.

Scottish Equalities Liaison Group



The group continue to meet regularly and now sit within the Service group Liaison Committee to help embed equalities in the work undertaken by UNISON and to ensure that our members voices are heard when discussing policies and recovery plans.

We continue to work to update reps to support the Safe Workplace Campaign and undertake workplace inspections in all sectors.

Regional Convenors and National Rep Meetings

Your Regional Convenors and National Reps continue to meet with our counterparts across the UK to discuss work ongoing in our areas and to set out our action plan for the year ahead.

With many events being cancelled or moved online, we expect that Pride events will mostly be virtual or cancelled altogether. We will keep you updated as we move into recovery of any events in your area.

Plans continue to be discussed around national LGBT+ conference and as soon as we have information, we will share this with you.

ILGA Conference 2021

The ILGA-Europe team are currently developing a plan for this year's online event. They are taking time to reflect on what was learned in 2020, with a view to building an even better Gathering Online this year. Whilst an online event of course cannot replace all the unique elements of our Annual Conference, their intention is to again offer a meaningful moment for LGBTI activists in Europe and Central Asia to connect and come together this year.



Although there will not be an in-person conference again this year, rest assured there will be a moment for us to come together in 2021. We are happy to announce that ILGA's second Gathering Online will take place from 25-29 October 2021, followed by the AGM on 30-31 October 2021.

Upcoming Dates of importance

April

- 6 International Asexuality Day
- 12 – 14 UNISON health conference
- 26 Lesbian visibility day
- 28 Worker's memorial day
- 29 Branch LGBT+ officer and contact training (full but if more requests will run another session)

May

- 6 Elections: Scottish parliament
- 17 International Day Against Homophobia, Biphobia and Transphobia

Annual General Meeting

We are currently discussing arrangement for this year's AGM and will provide information in our next newsletter. We also hope to have some members virtual sessions where we can discuss plans and share information.

Network Meetings



22 June 2021 2:00pm–4:30pm

Join us to learn more about the work that the UNISON disabled LGBT+ network does and how you can get involved and help shape this work.

8 July 2021 2:00pm–4:30pm

Join us to learn more about the work that the UNISON Bi+ Network does for Bi+ equality and how you can get involved and help shape this work.



8 July 2021 10:30am–1:00pm

Join us to learn more about the work that the UNISON Trans Network does for Trans equality and how you can get involved and help shape this work.

We will decide nearer the time whether this happens at UNISON Centre, or online or a mixture of the two. For more information contact: out@unison.co.uk

Contact and Information

Facebook Group – Unison Scotland LGBT (ask to join private group)

Twitter - @UNISONScotlandLGBT

'Out in UNISON' is only published three times a year, but you can get monthly updates direct to your inbox by signing up for our LGBT e-bulletin at: unison.org.uk/out