

# UNISON WEEK

News and views from the biggest union in  
Scotland's public services



**Issue 290    31st August - 6 September 2020**

## **Programme for Government - Ambition & imagination Needed**

The Programme for Government announcement on Tuesday is an opportunity to begin to sketch out not just a route out of the pandemic, but to show a determination that what follows will be a fairer and better society. We need not retrenchment and cuts in public services - but an acknowledgement of their vital social and economic role and a determination to fund them properly.

We have outlined our view of what should be done to create a fair and sustainable recovery [here](#) and where the Scottish Government's plans for recovery fall short [here](#). One of the things shown up by the pandemic is that we have seen what is, and who are, essential. Any longer term social and economic strategy has to be built around these – not least because they will always need to be done, and always need to be done here.

There is more sustainability – socially, environmentally and economically – in prioritising these areas than an endless beauty contest to attract increasingly footloose global capital. The Scottish Government needs to show imagination and courage.



Everything you need to know on Coronavirus and your rights at work [here](#).

## **UNISON - getting bigger**

UNISON Scotland's membership, already the largest of any trade union in Scotland, is going up, with more than 10,000 workers joining the union this year.

There has been a surge of new members working in health and social care, particularly in April, prompted by UNISON's campaigning and negotiations on behalf of the workforce during the coronavirus pandemic.

This membership climb has been reflected across the UK, where UNISON has seen significant growth across public services. More details can be found [here](#) and our new TV ad stressing that no worker should face these uncertain times alone can be watched [here](#)

[Strike Ballot by UNISON staff stops compulsory redundancies at university](#)

## CORONAVIRUS: Nursery schools need safety reps



Every school  
needs a  
safety rep

Contact your local branch to get involved!



Join today: [join.unison.org.uk](http://join.unison.org.uk)

### Work in education?

Help defeat COVID19 by becoming a health and safety rep.. [read more](#)



there  
for you

# COVID-19 response fund

we're there for you

If you are a member and you are experiencing financial difficulties, whatever the circumstances, **There for You** can offer you support. We can provide one-off grants to those in difficulty due to coronavirus, or other financial assistance for those experiencing unexpected hardship.

## UNISON members in Scotland who need advice during Coronavirus

 Please speak to your workplace rep first. If possible.

 Glasgow: 0141 342 2899  
Aberdeen: 01224 620624  
Inverness: 01463 715891

When you call us you will be asked to leave a message, please do and we will get back to you as soon as we can.

 For membership enquiries: 0131 226 0090  
[membershipassistancescotland@unison.co.uk](mailto:membershipassistancescotland@unison.co.uk)



### PICK OF THE MEDIA

20/08/20 [heraldscotland.com](http://heraldscotland.com)

Student paramedics [deserve bursaries](#)

19/08/20 [edinburghlive.co.uk](http://edinburghlive.co.uk) [eveningexpress.co.uk](http://eveningexpress.co.uk)

Socially distanced [pay demo](#) and [talks](#)

23/08/20 [dailyrecord.co.uk](#)

Respect and decency are important in the workplace says the STUC's Rozanne Foyer. [every workplace](#)

24/08/20 [morningstaronline.co.uk](#)

If you don't like wearing a mask - you'll really hate being on a ventilator. A view from the US about [anti-mask protests](#)

### [NHS Scotland's self-help guide on the coronavirus](#)



#### Learning in Lockdown

UNISON has increased the number of online courses. [Find out more](#)

UNISON - ALWAYS WITH YOU

Join UNISON now ▶



**PUBLIC  
WORKS:**

# TOOLKIT

**Public Works** is the UNISON Scotland campaign for jobs, services, fair taxation and a Living Wage... and against austerity. **This toolkit** provides branches with campaign resources to save our public services from the cuts driven by an austerity that is a political choice not an economic necessity.

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