# Black Members Regional Elections Candidate statements received

Black Members TUC Conference Delegate

Only 1 to be nominated

Elizabeth Cameron

Please consider me for your TUC rep to TUC Black members conference

With 30 plus years work experience public sector private and voluntary sector, adults social care, childrens services, further education, violence against women and girls, domestic violence helpline, as an intersectional Black woman, I find my life and work experiences shape my contributions at Conference.

I’m a past NEC member, Asst branch secretary, Equalities officer, and Chair. I can speak up on behalf of others and put contentious points forward in the fight for race equality without fear or favour.

I am seeking election because despite being the nationally elected delegate to TUC Race equality committee there is no automatic entry, I therefore don’t get the chance to say at national level what the concerns of members are , such as;- the ethnicity pay gap, zero hours and casualised work contracts which have put us in the firing line for COVID exposure (and death ) workplace issues like unfair treatment, Racist Bullying and Harassment, lack of Representation of Black members in the workforce. Community concerns, such as young peoples current experience in education, the workforce and society, the rise in the far right , racist attacks, the scapegoating of refugees and over aggressive policing. I profile other committees such as Disabled members, Women’s , Young people and LGBTQ+. I can work as part of a team and delegation . I’ve been active in my community as chair of GM Race equality panel.

Sonia Stewart

No Statement received

National TUC

Only 1 to be nominated

Elizabeth Cameron

With 30 plus years work experience public sector private and voluntary sector, adults social care, childrens services, further education, violence against women and girls, domestic violence helpline, as an intersectional Black woman, I find my life and work experiences shape my contributions at Conference.

I’m a past NEC member, Asst branch secretary, Equalities officer, and Chair. I can speak up on behalf of others and put contentious points forward in the fight for race equality without fear or favour.

I have attended TUC Congress in the past and played an active part, being chosen to speak up for Black members and am the nationally elected delegate to TUC Race equality committee. This opportunity to attend congress allows me to give a voice to Black members issues;- the ethnicity pay gap, zero hours and casualised work contracts which have put us in the firing line for COVID exposure (and death ) . A chance to give voice to workplace issues ;unfair treatment, Racist Bullying and Harassment, lack of Representation of Black members in the workforce I fight at all levels to raise awareness and include the rise in the far right , racist attacks, the scapegoating of refugees and over aggressive policing. I profile other committees such as Disabled members, Women’s , Young people and LGBTQ+. I can work as part of a team and delegation . I’ve been active in my community as chair of GM Race equality panel.

Sonia Stewart

No Statement received

Regional Committee

Only 1 to be nominated

Prakash Chougule

“It is a privilege and great honour to be nominated to the Black members Regional Committee (BMRC) as it’s a crucial important role in the Unison. Being part of BMRC team gives me the chance to support the  Black  members ,and  make me more active volunteer engagement and strategic planning aligned with BMRC, Being UNISON member  and engaged with Liverpool Hospitals Health Branch as Black Members officer for more than 4 years and Join Chair on BAME network at work place, and part of work place EDI committees, it’s the time for me to use gained my knowledge to support with BMRC.  I have great ideas which will help to improve regional activities. My interest is also to identify the existing good potential regionally . I work as clinic clerk but have legal qualification (INDIA) . If elected a member of the BMRC. My objectives will include improving the BMRC value proposition, especially as the challenges and opportunities; promote a culture of continuous improvement, developing and supporting ways of , increasing its recognition with Non BAME people and BAME members . I also want to ensure that members views on the Black Members  strategy and direction are heard, reviewed and considered.

Sonia Stewart

No Statement received

National Black Members Committee

Only 3 to be nominated

Azara Azam

No Statement received

Harriet Baffoe-Whyte

I kindly ask for your vote to be on the National Black Members Committee. Giving me the nod will provide an avenue to advocate more for our interest at the National level beyond the Branch and Regional level that I have already been doing over the years.

In my branch, with the support of the Chair of the NW Region, I set up the Black Members Self Organised Group. It has been a way of creating support for each other and helping each other through our shared struggles. I have also been a Branch Committee member working together with others to represent the interest of members. At the Regional level, I have been on the TUC NW Black Workers Committee projecting our voices. I have loved working together with people from different places and learning a lot from everyone.

It has been a real privilege and I have been blown away when people from Bolton, Oldham, Wigan, Cumbria and even Leicester have made contact for advice and support based on recommendations. That makes me want to do more if my influence means a lot to people and what I have to say is so valuable to members. I have had my own lived experiences of injustice in the workplace which has helped me to stand up for myself and use my voice to support others plus, learning  a lot from the struggles other people and their wisdom.

All these have opened my eyes to the structures we are up against and

Elizabeth Cameron

As previous Chair of the committee with 30 plus years work experience public sector private and voluntary sector, across adults social care, childrens services, further education, violence against women and girls, domestic violence helpline I feel I have a great deal to contribute.

I have been an NEC member for 8 years, Asst branch secretary and can speak up on behalf of others and liaise with all levels of the union and bosses

I have supported Black members with advice on workplace issues and been able to refer matters on to relevant regional officers. I have worked with Hope not Hate on their campaigns, UAF and Stand up to Racism events, also inviting them to be a speaker at women's conference and been active in my community as chair of GM Race equality panel.

I am deeply concerned with discrimination and unfair treatment in the workplace, Racist Bullying and Harassment, inequality in Pay, and The lack of Representation of Black members in the workforce including in UNISON. I fight at all levels to raise the issues of Black members, including low income work and zero hours contracts , the rise in racist attacks and the  scapegoating of refugees , making clear the separation of extremism from the true beliefs and practice of Islam. I raise Black members views & profile into other committees such as Disabled members and Women’s committees specifically writing motions to increase the participation of Black members, accepted at conference.

Sonia Stewart

As an active representative from the North-West Black Members Committee on the National Black Members Committee, my current roles are:

* Lead on Challenging Racism in the Workplace Working Group
* Member of the ‘Year of Black Workers 2023’ Working Group
* NBMC representative on the Local Government Equalities Liaison Group

In my representative role on the NBMC, I raise awareness of work of the North-West Black Members Committee and vice versa and liaise regularly with our Chair. I also attend the annual National Black Members Conference as a delegate, online and in person.

I was recently involved in a Meet and Greet event, on behalf of the National Black Members Committee on Teams, where we responded to questions from North-West members.

I believe I make a valued contribution to the work of the National Black Members Committee, whilst ensuring that the concerns of North-West Black Members are heard and recognised in challenging institutional racism and relentlessly striving for an equal playing field for Black workers and our communities. Also working in collaboration with others with a view to generating greater impact and effecting real change.

I would like the opportunity to continue to represent the North-West Black Members Committee on the NBMC and for Black members in the North-West to have a strong voice.