

UNISON NI B&MW e-bulletin (March – April)

1. Pensions and moving back home, information seminar (30th March)
2. Immigration Advice
3. Monthly virtual drop-in support group (next 6th March)
4. Black and Migrant workers regional group
5. Year of Black Workers – Hospital information stalls (next 27th March)
6. English classes in UNISON (next batch 20th April)
7. NMC English requirement update
8. Migrant Rights Network survey – right to work checks (deadline 14th March)
9. UNISON College – education courses
10. New UNISON migrant worker network

1. Pensions and moving back home, information seminar

UNISON Black & Migrant Workers' Group and UNISON Craigavon Area Hospital Branch invite you to an advice / information session for migrant workers and their family on the pension system.

Many are planning to retire in their home country and want to know what their options are. A **pension adviser from UNISON** will give a general presentation, followed by a question & answer session.

Please help us make the presentation as relevant as possible, by emailing your specific queries now to: n.donnelly@unison.co.uk

Retirement, pensions and moving back home - Information Session

Thursday 30th March, 6pm on zoom

Register for this event:

https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZUvd-GqqT0pGtMo95u1nY_535_H6HBBw8Z

2. Monthly Immigration Advice Clinic

Our monthly Immigration Clinics with an immigration solicitor from the Law Centre NI have not had the start we were hoping for. Many of you got in touch following our last bulletin to book spaces in our monthly clinic. Unfortunately, clinics have been cancelled due to sickness and we are currently looking at potential alternatives.

We send our apologies again to people who are still waiting for their appointment, and we hope we can come back with good news very soon.

In the meantime, please remember that members can access confidential immigration advice via the JCWI / UNISON Direct helpline

Call 0800 0 857857

3. UNISON Black and Migrant Workers Group Drop-in sessions

UNISON NI's Black and Migrant Workers Group has been hosting drop-in support sessions for its members since September 2022 every **first**

Monday of the month (2.30pm-3.45pm). Sessions are facilitated by Black and Migrant Worker's Co-Chair, Dean Lee who is a BACP Accredited Counsellor and Community Development Facilitator with over 20 years' experience of working predominantly in the voluntary sector in Northern Ireland.

Each session begins with a brief introduction on a chosen theme related to how we can support ourselves emotionally and practically as Black and Migrant Workers and Trade Union members. Participants are then invited to share their own thoughts, feelings, and experiences on the theme in a safe, confidential, and mutually supportive atmosphere. The sessions last no longer than 1 hour and 15 mins (with 15 mins for arrivals and introductions) and take place over ZOOM and occasionally in person. Issues raised by participants can be further addressed, if necessary, through signposting to UNISON reps or staff. (*Certificates of attendance can be provided on request*)

Next session: **Monday 6th March, 2.30PM** - ["Burnout - Refilling the cup of Compassion"](#)

To register and secure a place on any one or the whole series of monthly support workshops, please email n.donnelly@unison.co.uk

Session 4 (3 April) - ["Spirituality - Have some faith?"](#)

Session 5 (8 May) - ["Responsibility - Going above and beyond"](#)

Session 6 (5 June) - ["Intersectionality - Multiple Struggles to Belong"](#)

Session 7 (3 July) - ["Politics - From Disenfranchisement to Activism"](#)

Session 8 (7 August) - ["Creativity – The Art of Healing"](#)

Session 9 (4 September) - ["Reconciliation - Give my head Peace"](#)

Session 10 (2 October) - ["Racism and Xenophobia - Our wee country?"](#)

Session 11 (6 November) - ["Self-Fulfilment - Who cares?"](#)

Session 12 (4 December) - ["Achievement – Too busy to celebrate?"](#)

4. Black and Migrant workers regional group

Delegates from our group had a very positive experience at Black Members Conference in Edinburg in January. All found it extremely motivating and useful and our motion (asking for immigration advice through our normal legal services) was passed once again, with a lot of support from other regions.

We will continue to push until this finally becomes a reality and migrant workers can enjoy the full support they deserve from our UNISON legal services, even when immigration issues are intertwined their case.

Anyone who would like to be involved in our group and be able to join events such as the annual Black Members conference, should get in touch (*email Nathalie.n.donnelly@unison.co.uk or get involved with your local branch*). Our group has moved to monthly zoom meetings for 2023, so it is easy to link in, regardless of where you are.

You can also come and talk to us at the various events organised throughout the year: we have been involved in the many strike pickets, demos, recent anti-racism march in Dublin, etc. and will continue to be

(for e.g. don't miss International Women's Day, this Saturday @11.00 Writer's square, or our annual May Day parade).
So just look out for our UNISON NI Black and Migrant Worker banner, or come and see us at one of the upcoming hospital stalls (info below).



5. Year of Black Workers - Hospital Information Stalls

To mark 2023 Year of Black Workers, our group and local branches have set up a series of hospital information stalls. Starting in the Belfast Trust hospitals, we had our first stall in the Mater hospital on Monday. Come a say hello, send your colleagues who haven't join UNISON yet, or come and put your name down to get more involved!

Stalls coming up:
10.30 to 14.00

Monday 27th March – Green Park / Musgrave hospital

Thursday 6th April – Royal Victoria Hospital

Monday 17th April – Belfast City Hospital

There will be events throughout the year to mark **2023 – Year of Black Workers**. More information on 2023 Year of Black Workers can be found on the UNISON

website: <https://www.unison.org.uk/news/article/2023/01/the-year-of-black-workers/>

6. English classes in UNISON

UNISON offers weekly classes for those who want to prepare for an IELTS (International English Test System) or OET exam (Occupational English Test - *for doctor and nurses*). The class is for those who require a Level 6.5 or above in IELTS and OET equivalent -typically for NMC or GMC registration.

Classes take place in the UNISON office **every Thursday** (with Hybrid / Zoom option available)

IELTS 10.30 to 12.30

OET 2.00 to 4.00

The next intake starts on **Thursday 20th April**. Please email Nathalie to register: n.donnelly@unison.co.uk

The class is delivered by Susan Good.

The first class will start with a short assessment exercise.

Classes are also open to asylum seekers and refugees as part of UNISON's commitment to supporting inclusion.

7. NMC updates re language requirements

The NMC have introduced some small changes regarding the English requirement in February this year.

The overall score requirements for IELTS and OET remain the same, but the period for combining test scores has been extended from six to twelve months and they have updated their minimum scores when test combining.

See more details on the [NMC website](#).

8. Migrant Rights Network survey - right to work checks

Last year, Migrants' Rights Networks(MRN) launched the [Challenge the Checks campaign](#) to uncover the negative effects of expecting employers to enforce immigration law in the workplace, especially right to work checks.

Legislation that is causing this suffering is complex and confusing, incorporating aspects from employment, data rights and Home Office applications. Migrants are effectively living in fear as their futures depend on error-prone digital services or employers who don't understand the rules.

As part of this campaign, MRN want to understand how, and to what extent migrants are being affected by these policies. If you feel comfortable sharing your experience of right to work checks, you can fill out their anonymous survey on

<https://smartsurvey.co.uk/s/righttoworkchecks/>

The survey will be running until 14th March 2023.

You can also help the campaign by sharing the information below with your own networks:

Are you a migrant worker? Have you had difficulties with #RightToWork checks?

We want to hear from you. You can share your experiences through our anonymous survey and help us

#ChallengeTheChecks: <https://smartsurvey.co.uk/s/righttoworkchecks/>

9. Education courses in UNISON

Please follow the links for a list of upcoming courses. To register for any of these courses please email educationni@unison.co.uk with the course name, your name and membership number if you know it.

Our education grants, eLearning modules with Nursing times, and Skills Academy and pre-recorded lectures can be found on <https://padlet.com/caitcac8/memberlearning/wish/2427383621>



UNISON College offer over 700 different course topics to our members each year, ranging from in person accredited learning to virtual and eLearning CPD modules.

10. UNISON Migrant Worker network

The **UNISON Migrant Worker Network** is a new, UK wide, informal network of UNISON members with a first-generation immigrant background including overseas and migrant workers, EU settled status workers and workers who have subsequently naturalised as British citizens or who have indefinite leave to remain. Members can now identify and update their membership record as a migrant worker using the following link, which will enable UNISON to target advice, support and information more effectively.

JOIN THE NETWORK HERE - [UNISON Migrant Worker Network](#)



Do you have any colleagues not in UNISON?

Encourage them to join now for advice and support in the workplace.

[Join UNISON Online](#)



Nathalie Donnelly (She / Her)
Local Organiser
- Black &

Migrant Workers project

Working days: Monday, Wednesday, Thursday

Text/ WhatsApp 07554433958

Facebook: [UNISON NI Migrant Workers page](#)



2023 YEAR OF BLACK WORKERS

Establishing legacy to generate change