

TODAY'S CRAIC AT CONFERENCE!

News from the NI Delegation

18th June 2019

Welcome to National Delegate Conference 2019 in Liverpool! This is your guide to all the craic at Day 1 of Conference. Remember that you have been elected to be the voice of your branch members at conference. Your vote is important as it is the vote of your branch. You are here to help form policy decisions for the 1.3 million members of UNISON. We hope you enjoy Day 1 of the Conference and please don't hesitate to speak with us if you have any questions.



Gabrielle

Stephanie Greenwood
(Joint Regional Convener
& Regional Delegate)



Carton

Denis Keatings
(Regional Delegate)



(Joint Regional Convener)

Didn't make it to the pre-conference delegate meeting in Belfast?

- Additional copies of our Guide for NDC Delegates are available at the Regional Delegate Desk
- The Regional Delegate Briefing Paper will be distributed by the Regional Delegates and copies are available at the Regional Delegate desk
- **Make sure that your designated delegate has collected the card votes this morning!**

Well done to all our delegates at Local Government Conference 2019!

Congratulations to all our UNISON NI delegates at the Local Government Conference 2019! Despite being the smallest delegation, they did us proud with almost 50% of the delegation speaking in the debates on the motions. Well done to them all!



Our Education delegates after a hard day's night!

TODAY AT CONFERENCE

Full details are provided in your delegate packs but here are some highlights to watch out for and a number of our delegates will be speaking in the debate.

- **President's Speech—Gordon McKay**
- **Motion - Composite H – Justice for the Windrush Generation:** This motion highlights the appalling treatment of the 'Windrush Generation' who have suffered deportation, have lost their jobs and been denied access to NHS care due to the 'hostile environment' for migrants created by the Tories and the serious mistakes of the Home Office. With Brexit looming and millions of migrant workers having to register for 'settled status' in the UK a repeat of this scandal could be on the cards.
- **Dave Prentis, General Secretary**
- Motion 19 & 18 (Debate on Young Member's)

Remember to keep an eye on the remaining order of business as several motions that have been prioritised for support by the NI region are likely to be heard at various points during the day. Speakers need to be ready to move at short notice!

- **Motion 58—Strengthening Maternity Rights**
- **Motion 22—Smash the Gender Pay Gap**
- **Composite C—Tackling Stress, Bullying and Harassment**
- **Motion 110—Review of the Devolution Protocol**

Wednesday 19th June 10am

Our Regional Committee and the NDC Delegate meeting unanimously supported ***Motion 126 - Resourcing our Branches — A UNISON priority***. This motion proposes that the NEC undertake a review of activity and expenditure at all levels to enable the prioritization of resources with a view to redirecting more resources to branches. The review will be member-led, commence following conference and last for 2 years. The review group will be comprised of 12 members of the NEC and one representative from each region. Until this review is completed and approved by a future Conference, an amended scheme of funding will apply from 1st January 2020. No branches will lose out on this motion. For many branches there is no change in their funding position. A number of our branches will gain particularly the smallest and those currently struggling to make resources stretch.

The NI Regional Committee recommends that delegates support motion 126, oppose amendment 126.1 and support amendment 126.2.

We are opposing 126.1 on the basis that it is unnecessary. All SOGs are already part of the NEC and will be represented on the review group, but in addition there will be a comprehensive engagement exercise with regions, service groups, regional SOGs and branches.

Delegate Briefing Paper

Remember that your Delegate Briefing Paper will act as a guide on all motions and will assist you in voting. If you want help preparing a speech on any of the motions speak with Patricia McKeown or John Patrick Clayton. If you have any other questions, make sure to speak with Gabrielle Carton or Stephanie Greenwood, the two NI Regional Delegates.

FRINGE MEETINGS

Your About Conference 2019 guide includes a full list of all fringe meetings. There's loads of interesting meetings happening throughout the week, but today we would particularly highlight:

- ***Cuba: 60 years of Revolution, 60 years of blockade—Solidarity against Trump sanctions and intervention*** - 17:15 — 18:15 Hall 1B Upper Level
- ***UNISON's Campaign for Women and Pensions*** — 17:15 — 18:15 Hall 2N Lower Level
- ***Princess Alexandra Hospital domestics: fighting to stay in the NHS*** — 17:15—18:15 Hall 2P Lower Level

Please share any photos or stories from the conference or any fringe events with John Patrick — j.clayton@unison.co.uk (Normal decency rules apply!)

IN MEMORIAM

It is with deep sadness that we write to advise of the death of Cath Friel, former NEC member for Scotland and UNISON NI Regional Education Officer. Cath passed away on Friday evening in the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Glasgow following a long illness. Several of Cath's friends and former colleagues made frequent visits to her during her long stay in hospital. Cath was a long term UNISON activist and joined the staff of UNISON NI in 2000. She returned to Scotland in 2015 upon her retirement. Cath made many friends during her time in Northern Ireland and she will be much missed by all of us.

Funeral arrangements to follow.

