



Message from the Regional Secretary

July 2017



A Special 'Thank You' to all our Activists

In the first half of 2017 UNISON activists and members have achieved outstanding results for our members. You have bargained with employers, represented our members, campaigned in huge numbers, participated in the life of the union and recruited over 3500 new members. This is a tremendous achievement. On behalf of our Regional Committee and our entire UNISON team, I thank you all. We have major challenges ahead and a plan with ICTU to challenge the pay cap, secure investment for public services, champion the rights of the disadvantaged in our society and work for a just society built on equality and human rights.

The past few weeks have been especially intense. I thank all of you who have played such a vital role in our national conferences, ICTU Conferences and seminars, protests, marches and campaigns. We record just a few highlights here. See more at www.unison-ni.org.uk or our Facebook /Twitter.



UNISON PRESIDENT 2017-2018



Our very own Margaret McKee from the Royal Victoria Hospital has been elected as President to lead UNISON 1.3 million members. Most of you know Margaret. We have experienced her joy and pain. We have benefited from her solidarity, her tough negotiating skills and her absolute dedication to our members.

We are bursting with pride at her achievement. We wish her well in the challenging times ahead. Since her election Margaret has been on the ground with our members in Northern Ireland and further afield. She has started as she means to go on!

Patricia McKeown

REGIONAL SECRETARY



LIVING WAGE DEMO



WASPI PENSIONS CAMPAIGN



CELEBRATING OUR MIGRANT WORKERS



MAY DAY 2017



EQUAL MARRIAGE RALLY



NI delegates and speakers



National Delegates Conference June 2017, Brighton

All our branches attended this year's National Delegates Conference in Brighton and speakers from Northern Ireland made a significant impact. Our motions on EU exit, the Peace Process, the need to protect human rights in general and women's rights and workers' rights in particular were carried unanimously.

Our delegates also contributed to the range of debates including social care, mental health, protecting the NHS, abortion rights, young workers and the need to organise a strong union to tackle the challenges faced by our members.

The Northern Ireland delegation has been commended by the NEC for the very positive contributions made by all.

ICTU Biennial Conference July 2017, Belfast

A full UNISON delegation took part in the 2017 Biennial Conference of the Irish Congress of Trade Unions.

Once again the UNISON delegation participated extensively, speaking on motions on the pay cap, peace process, EU exit, equality and human rights, challenging austerity, protecting health, education, social care and public housing, challenging poverty, improving workers health including mental health and much more. UNISON's motions on the political situation and abortion rights were carried unanimously.

We are very grateful for the full participation of our members in the special events celebrating the struggle of our friends and human rights activists Huber Ballesteros from Columbia and Omar Barghouti from Palestine. We encourage all branches to affiliate to both campaigns.



Our largest ever delegation from NI Branches joined the exciting Durham Miners Gala this year, well done to all involved. This important event is now a firm commitment in our trade union calendar. It is a core part of trade union and political education and a wonderful way of meeting the other 200,000 trade unionists who take part each July.

ICTU Strategic Seminar—June 2017

Many thanks to those delegates who dashed back from Brighton to attend the special ICTU seminar to develop the trade union plan of action to challenge on pay, public services and achieving a decent society. You will be involved in UNISON's development of our operational plans for the campaign in the coming months.

Reclaim the Enlightenment

Join us at First Presbyterian Rosemary Street, Belfast from 2-3.30pm on the 14 July 2017 to celebrate the enlightened and radical role of our citizens in supporting the French Revolution 225 Years ago.