

# UNISON

## COLLEGE



# SEPTEMBER

# ACTIVIST

# PROGRAMME



Our Education programme continues this quarter via ZOOM. The month of September is dedicated to activist learning. The programme covers all aspects of activist learning from taster sessions, accredited reps training, a range of branch officer courses and upskilling sessions for existing stewards .

All of our courses can be booked by emailing [educationni@unison.co.uk](mailto:educationni@unison.co.uk) ,alternatively you can book a place via our app <https://unisoncollegeni.org.uk>

**If you any issues connecting to our sessions please let us know. We can support you with connectivity or hardware and support you in accessing online learning.**



## **The Organising Steward**

UNISON stewards are the most important link between members in the workplace, their employer and the wider union. This Five day course is for new stewards to give you the knowledge and skills to support members locally and take on issues in your workplace.

New stewards get paid time to attend (where a facility agreement exists with the employer).

### **Module One**

**22, 23, 24, 25 & 28 Sept 10am-12.30pm plus  
2pm-4pm on 23rd and 28th September**



## **Branch Health & Safety Officer Training**

Health and Safety representatives play a crucial role in Branches and workplaces.

Now more than ever our branches and members are focused on the health and safety of our workplaces.

.This session is designed to ensure Branch Health & Safety Officers are equipped to develop a H&S strategy within your branch and offer any support you may need in doing this. It will explore the role of the H&S Officer, how you fit in with branch structures, how to work with other H&S reps to hold employers to account for safety.

**Tuesday 15th September 10am-12pm**

## **Branch Welfare Officer Training**

UNISON's There for You charity provides essential support for members who are experiencing financial difficulties. This course provides

new Welfare Officers with the knowledge and skills to assist members in

accessing support from There For You.

It will include a session on understanding the UNISON welfare charity,

as well as a guide to completing the required paperwork.

It also explores issues such as confidentiality and active listening.

**Friday 18th September 10.30am-12.30pm**



## **Supporting Members Impacted by Drug or Alcohol Misuse**

This one day workshop will explore how you define drug and alcohol misuse and the impact on an individual in their home and work life. It will cover the policies which can be used by reps to support members to stay engaged with work and how to represent them if they are facing capability or disciplinary hearings. It will be delivered by Ascertain and UNISON.

**21st Sept 10am-12pm**

## **We're all in this together'. Impact of COVID 19 across the globe.**

Positive and negative impacts of pandemics. Exploration of pandemics through history e.g. cholera, bubonic plague, smallpox, and influenza. What have we learnt?

In this current pandemic we've often been told we're all in this together? Are we really? Who and where is the greatest impact felt? Who benefits, who loses? How can workers and unions unite to support each other through this crisis and beyond?

**22nd September 10am-12pm**



## **Dealing with Disciplinaries, Grievance & Sickness Absence**

This two day course is a follow on to the Organising Stewards course and looks particularly at the how to support members involved in grievance and disciplinary processes. Day One will cover the policy elements of grievance and disciplinary procedures, how to ensure you have all the facts and can make the best case for your member. Day Two will deal particularly with Sickness Absence meetings including understanding processes around ill health retirement, defending members from unfair pressure to return to work and supporting those who do come back to work. It will also explore supporting a member at a stressful time, tactics and pitfalls as well as sources of help. If participants have already completed the Case Representation course, they can attend Day Two on Sickness Absence.

**Thurs. 24 & Fri. 25 Sept.**

## **Organising members Via Digital Platforms**

During the past 6 months much of our campaigning and organising has been online . This session explores how activists can make the most of digital technologies available to us and turn social media likes into engagement with campaigns or online meetings and events.

**Monday 28th September 2pm-4pm**



## **Representing Members Relating to Social Media Breaches**

Social media is part of our everyday lives and sometimes there is a crossover between home and work.

In some situations, members can breach the workplace policy which can result in disciplinary proceedings

Or a threat to their registration of a professional body such as NISCC, NMC or HCPC.

This course will use case studies to help participants understand how breaches occur, provide information on the relevant legislation and consider ways to defend against disciplinary action.

**Monday 28th Sept. 10am – 12.30pm**

## **Branch Chairpersons Training**

It is aimed at New Branch Chairpersons, and those who need a refresher. The Branch Chairperson plays a key role in leading the branch committee to move the branch forward. It is not just about chairing meetings, it is about strategy, branch assessment and monitoring and developing a strong working relationship with the Branch Secretary. This virtual session will look at the role as set out in the UNISON Code of Good Branch Practice but explores the skills and competencies to be a leader in the branch.

**29th september 10.30am-12.30pm**



Over the Past few months we have developed Health and Safety resources for our reps and branches should you wish to access any of the videos, recordings or slides please email **[educationni@unison.co.uk](mailto:educationni@unison.co.uk)**