



West Midlands Black Members

The West Midlands Region Black Members Committee meets 5 times a year to discuss and action the Black Members annual work programme. The WMBMSOG also receive reports back from representatives who sit on all Regional Committees/Council, the National Black Members Committee and other regional forums.

Branches throughout the West Midlands have representatives attending the meetings from each Service Group that UNISON organises in, i.e. Health, Local Government, Higher Education, Water, Gas, Electricity and Transport.

The regional black members committee is involved in a whole range of activities i.e. Anti BNP campaigns working alongside Searchlight.

Members are elected to the Regional Black Members Committee in line with the RBMC Constitution.

The RBMC elections are carried out annually.

The RBMC operates the UNISON Rule Book commitment on proportionality and fair representation in all elections for the Committee.

RBMC representatives also attend UNISON Annual Delegate Conferences as observers and also represent UNISON at the TUC Black Workers Conference.

2007/8 Executive Officers

Sue Higgins – Chair

Esmie Reid – Vice Chair

Jenny Forbes – Secretary

Jacque Burton/Spurgeon Smith – Education Office J/S

Doreen Brown/Jenny Forbes/Pat May – NBMC reps

Objectives

The West Midlands Black Members' Group shall be a forum open to any Black member of a UNISON branch in the West Midlands Region. It will:

- a. assist the Regional Office in maintaining a database of Black members in the Region;
- b. meet for support, encouragement, information sharing and networking;
- c. ensure training and development for its members;
- d. discuss and campaign on equalities and other issues affecting Black members;
- e. ensure that issues affecting Black workers are communicated to and actioned by the relevant Regional Groups;
- f. work with other Self Organised Groups, unions, organisations, charities and individuals, locally, regionally, nationally and internationally.

Functions

The West Midlands Region Black Members' Group shall:

- a. prepare an annual action plan having knowledge of regional and national objectives and priorities;
- b. assist and support branches with issues for Black members;
- c. submit motions relevant to Black members to the appropriate bodies;
- d. ensure representation on regional and outside bodies;
- e. ensure representation of the Regional Black Members' Group on the National Black Members' Committee;
- f. receive reports from elected reps.

Training and Education

The Regional Education Service has established a positive programme of work with the Regional Black Members SOG. It has helped with the creation of a Development Plan for the SOG and provided two training events.

In addition the West Midlands piloted the materials for the Challenging Racism in the Workplace Project, which contributed to the finalisation of the materials which should be available in the Autumn. Branches who would like to be involved in the second phase of the project should contact Val Gibson at the Regional Centre.

Black Members SOG Development Weekend 19/20 May 2007



In attendance were

Left to Right Front Row:

Ian Manborde (Facilitator), Sue Higgins (BMSOG Chair), Jacquie Burton (Education Officer j/s), Klair Jassal, Esmie Reid (Vice Chair), Doreen Brown

Left to Right Back Row:

Violet Schischka, Carol Cooke, Sharon Crossfield, Jenny Forbes (Secretary)