



HONORARY LIFE MEMBERSHIP PROCEDURE

This category of membership is governed by Rule C2.7:

- 2.7.1 Existing members of the Union may be awarded honorary life membership in recognition of their service to the Union upon cessation of their normal membership. For the avoidance of doubt, the scheme applies equally to lay and staff members of UNISON.
- 2.7.2 Such honorary life members must be nominated by their branch or by regional and national committees, or by the National Executive Council which body must approve all awards.
- 2.7.3 Branches wishing to make a nomination should first send their nomination to the region which may provide supplementary information or otherwise comment on the nomination for the Development & Organisation Committee's consideration.
- 2.7.4 Honorary life members shall be entitled to participate in the Retired Members Organisation and be eligible for the same rights and benefits as retired members. They will not be required to pay the fee for retired members set out in Schedule A (6).
- 2.7.5 On being granted honorary life membership, the member will be provided with a certificate and an honorary life membership badge.
- 2.7.6 Existing life members of COHSE and NUPE and honorary members of NALGO shall become honorary life members of UNISON on Vesting Day.

The intention of granting Honorary Life Membership therefore is two-fold:

- 1 To recognise past service to the union
- 2 To grant free membership for life

Member's experiences as UNISON activists will vary, but in order that the category of membership remains meaningful and has some status, the criteria applied will need to reflect extraordinary service to the union.

The following criteria is recommended for consideration:

- (1) Outstanding service as a UNISON official acting on behalf of UNISON, whether inside or outside the union.
- (2) The activity in question must demonstrate some outstanding contribution made to the union and/or UNISON's aims and objectives
- (3) It is recommended that a qualifying period of ten years be applied as a guideline, in conjunction with the other criteria with service as an official.

Each application should be considered on its own merits against the criteria with supporting information supplied by the nominating body.

Once the application has been agreed by the appropriate nominating body it should be returned to: The Head of Structural Development, UNISON, 1 Mabledon Place, London, WC1H 9AJ, who will ensure that it is placed before the next meeting of the Development & Organisation Committee.

The Development & Organisation Committee will approve this award, so regions will need to be mindful of the meeting dates of the NEC committee cycle.

It is advised that nominating bodies prepare the application well in advance to ensure that it can be placed on the D&O agenda, to ensure that once it has been approved the certificate can be sent to regions in good time to be framed and presented to the member as appropriate.

Regions will also need to ensure that members' records are amended to reflect any such changes to their membership status.