

To the PGFTU Women's
Conference

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Dear Sisters

On behalf of the more than one million women members of UNISON, the UK's leading public service trade union, I want to send my greetings to all the women in the PGFTU and wish you a successful congress.

UNISON has a long history of support for the PGFTU and for justice for the Palestinian people. We salute the role of Palestinian women who have held Palestinian society together through many years of struggle and conflict.

I welcome the commitment of the PGFTU to increase women's participation in the trade union movement. Trade unions have a vital role to play in the struggle for women's equality both in the workplace and in society as a whole. Women are in leadership positions at all levels of UNISON and women make up half of all trade union members in the United Kingdom. However, despite over 30 years of equal pay legislation, we still have not achieved equal pay for women so we know how important it is for women to join trade unions to fight collectively for their rights.

I am sorry that I cannot be with you today at this congress. I was able to meet Shaher Sa'ed in Nablus earlier this week and brought to him a strong message of solidarity from UNISON. I promise that we will be there by your side until justice for all Palestinians, women and men, has been won.

Yours in sisterhood



Angela Lynes
UNISON President

