

HOW TO GET TO UNISON LGBT CONFERENCE

This year's UNISON LGBT conference is in Brighton on 13 - 15 November. Hundreds of LGBT UNISON members debate our issues and influence UNISON's thinking on LGBT equality. If you've not been before, we recommend it!

The conference bulletin – including registration forms – has gone to branches and is online at unison.org.uk/about/events-and-conferences.

Who can attend?

Any UNISON member who identifies as lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender can apply to their branch to attend. Branches can decide how many members to send, but all are urged to register at least one delegate.

How do you apply?

Speak to your branch as soon as possible, find out how and when the branch delegation will be agreed and tell them you want to go. Delegations must meet UNISON's rules on fair representation. So a branch can't send a delegation of just two men, for example – it would need to also send two women. Low paid, part-time and manual workers have been particularly under-represented at previous conferences so if this applies to you, you are particularly welcome. Registration closes on 18 September.

Transitioning but not yet changed your UNISON membership details?

Members can participate in UNISON conferences in a different gender to their UNISON membership details.

What if you're not out as LGBT in your branch?

Get in touch with your regional contact – see page 11. They will act as an intermediary between you and your branch, without revealing your identity. You'll still be attending as a branch delegate and you should provide a report to the branch, but your name will not be attached to it.

How are accommodation and travel arranged?

The conference bulletin includes information on accommodation and forms for booking your travel. Your branch will help with booking.

Who pays?

Branches pay for their delegates' accommodation and expenses. This includes the cost of meals and any dependent care or personal facilitation. You should get the money for your expenses before the conference itself – remember to ask the branch in plenty of time. Delegates' travel costs are paid by UNISON centrally; visitors' travel is paid by their branch.

What about kids?

If you need to bring your kids with you, active childcare is provided for children up to 16, while conference is in session. It's called a crèche, but it's not just for babies. UNISON will pay for your children's travel and accommodation if they are booked in the crèche. Deadline for a crèche place is 18 September.

What facilities are provided?

UNISON aims to provide a fully accessible event for disabled members, but has to know what people need in advance.

How can you prepare for conference?

You'll be sent a detailed delegate pack a couple of weeks before conference. Have a good look through it. Most regional LGBT groups have a pre-conference meeting, where you can:

- meet other delegates – and maybe arrange to travel to conference together
- learn how conference works and find your way around the conference papers
- discuss the regional group's position on conference motions.

Anything else?

If you have any other questions, please contact us at out@unison.co.uk . We look forward to seeing you in Brighton.