

UNISON calendar of international days and
ideas for branch activities 2017

Tenemos Derechos



Sí al Sindicato

Federación CST-JBE

Federación FZF/CST

Dear UNISON member

UNISON can be rightly proud of its long history of international work. UNISON is known, both in the UK and globally, as a union that has an international perspective on all areas of its work from organising, the fight against privatisation or the defence of employment and trade union rights.

UNISON is fortunate in having a unique network of branch and regional activists who play a vital role in taking forward its international work. The UNISON International Development Fund is a vital tool that enables the union to put in place concrete measures to compliment our policies and which is a genuine expression of international trade union solidarity. The driving forces of the neo-liberal economic model behind privatisation and out-sourcing, cuts in public spending and taxation, the driving down of workers' and trade union rights are global. UNISON has no option but to respond to these threats by working internationally as part of the European and international trade union movement.

In 2017 UNISON will promote an understanding of the international dimension to all areas of our work as a trade union and the necessity to fight neo-liberal policies both in the UK and globally.

UNISON will prioritise the following issues in 2017 as agreed by the NEC international committee:

- Palestine
- Colombia
- Qatar
- Turkey

In addition to these priorities, procurement and supply chain management, and public services in the global south will also be seen as important policy areas.

This calendar of globally-recognised international days and key days for UNISON has been designed to be used as a resource when planning work in your branch. It gives some suggested activities and provides web links to organisations working on particular issues. UNISON is affiliated to some of the organisations and encourages regions and branches to affiliate also.

The calendar is by no means a definitive list of actions/activities, nor do branches 'have to' implement them. Rather, we hope that it might inspire you to work with other branch officers to raise the profile of UNISON in your workplace, promote UNISON's international work, and use it to inform colleagues about the work of UNISON and why they should become a member and activist.

On behalf of the NEC international committee, I wish you well in 2017.

Paul Glover
Chair, UNISON NEC international committee

Contact UNISON international
I.Relations@unison.co.uk

Follow UNISON's international work online and on social media
unison.org.uk/international
facebook.com/pages/UNISON-International
[Twitter @UNISON_global](https://twitter.com/UNISON_global)

Calendar front cover photo: Recruitment poster for Nicaraguan unions with logo:
We have rights and Yes to the union

International days 2017 with suggested activities and resource links

27 January

Holocaust Memorial Day

Suggested activities:

- Light a candle.
- Publish a statement – put out on social media/branch mailing.
- Become a friend of Hope Not Hate.
- Link up with HMD events in your area.
- Remember all the genocides that have taken place since the Holocaust.

Resources:

Holocaust Memorial Day Trust:
hmd.org.uk
Hope Not Hate:
hopenothate.org.uk

February

LGBT History Month

Suggested activities:

- Liaise with equalities officers on linking international dimension to LGBT History Month.
- Promote e-actions against attacks on LGBT people.

Resources:

UNISON LGBT:
unison.org.uk/about/our-organisation/member-groups/LGBT
UNISON LGBT regional officers:
unison.org.uk/lgbt/contacts/
LGBT History Month:
lgbthistorymonth.org.uk

6 February

International Day of Zero Tolerance for Female Genital Mutilation

Suggested activities:

- Liaise with women members contacts on activities promoting awareness.
- Raise awareness using the resources and reports hosted on the UNFPA website.
- Support Amnesty International's campaign on FGM

Resources:

UNISON women members contact:
unison.org.uk/women/
UNFPA main site and resources:
unfpa.org
Amnesty International
amnesty.org.uk/donate/join-the-revolution-against-fgm-child-marriage-burkina-faso-sierra-leone

8 March

International Women's Day
(part of Women's History Month)

Suggested activities:

- Issue a press release to mark the day.
- Liaise with women's and publicity officer in branch to highlight challenges facing women around equal pay, VAW, decent work, child care, maternal health, women in leadership, etc.
- Invite speakers from solidarity groups who are working on women's issues, such as JFC, BCUK, AIUK, ACTSA, etc.
- Run a stall with a solidarity group with a

Resources:

Action for Southern Africa:
actsa.org
Amnesty International UK:
amnesty.org.uk
Burma Campaign UK:
burmacampaign.org.uk
Justice for Colombia:
justiceforcolombia.org
PSI women:
world-psi.org/en/topic/women

particular 'ask' (e.g. petition calling for end to VAW, FGM).

- Distribute/wear purple ribbons to raise awareness in branch.
- Get branch to affiliate to solidarity group working on gender issues.

PSI EVAW:

world-psi.org/en/issue/vaw

UNISON women:

unison.org.uk/about/our-organisation/member-groups/women

FORWARD:

forwarduk.org.uk/key-issues/fgm

21 March

UN International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination

Suggested activities:

- Make arrangements for branch members to participate in one or more of the events to be publicised on the websites listed.
- Order materials and resources from the UNISON online catalogue for the day of action.

Resources:

UN event day website:

un.org/en/racialdiscriminationday

UNISON Stand Up To Racism page:

unison.org.uk/news/stand-up-to-racism-and-fascism/

TUC events page:

tuc.org.uk/events

22 March

**World Water Day
March is Water Action Month**

Suggested activities:

- Write to your MP urging the Department for International Development to support access to quality public water and sanitation in order to achieve Development Goal 6, clean water and sanitation for everyone.
- Support Public Services International actions against water privatisation in the Global South and related campaigns organised by Global Justice Now.

Resources:

End Water Poverty

www.endwaterpoverty.org

Public Services International water and sanitation campaign page:

world-psi.org/water

Global Justice Now campaigns page:

globaljustice.org.uk/water

31 March

Transgender Day of Visibility

Suggested activities:

- Raise awareness of trans equality as a global workplace issue.

Resources:

Transgender Europe website:

tgeu.org/

UNISON guide for unison reps supporting trans members:

unison.org.uk/supporting-trans-members

Factsheet on trans workers rights:

unison.org.uk/transgender-workers-rights-factsheet

31 March – 2 April, Croyde Bay, Devon

UNISON international seminar

Suggested activities:

- Seminar for branch international relations officers and activists interested in promoting UNISON international work in their branches, including training. A draft programme will be circulated in advance.

Resources:

Visit the UNISON events page for more information and details on how to register:

unison.org.uk/events/international-seminar

Contact I.Relations@unison.co.uk.

7 April

World Health Day

Suggested activities:

- Set up a stall to inform staff and the public about UNISON's work to defend the NHS.
- Celebrate NHS and health initiatives in other countries.
- Write to your MP urging the Department for International Development (DFID) to stop promoting the privatisation of healthcare in the global south
- Support Public Services International campaign for the human rights to health
- Donate to Medical Aid for Palestinians.

Resources:

Official WHO World Health Day campaigns website:
who.int/campaigns/world-health-day
UNISON website:
unison.org.uk
DFID and the privatisation of healthcare:
unison.org.uk/DFID
PSI Human Right to Health Campaign:
world-psi.org/public-health-all
Medical Aid for Palestinians:
map-uk.org

28 April

International Workers' Memorial Day

Suggested activities:

- Liaise with branch H&S officer regarding joint activities with the employer, including safety inspections, a review of risk assessments, etc.
- Discuss workplace health and safety concerns with members, non-members, and the employer.
- Order and wear purple IWMD ribbons to raise awareness, and talk to people about H&S (in the workplace) and IWMD (where the purpose is not just to commemorate those who died at work but to revitalise our campaign for safe and healthy work for all).
- Show a film or hold an event/meeting/minute's silence to commemorate those who have died at work.
- Join locally/regionally organised events – see the TUC, Hazards Magazine, or UNISON websites. If none, hold your own local event.
- Order and use the various IWMD materials available from UNISON and elsewhere.
- Take part in UNISON's campaign on tackling work related stress – which we launch at the national H&S seminar (on 29 March).

Resources:

UNISON H&S:
unison.org.uk/health-and-safety
UNISON branch guide to ethical procurement (briefing):
<http://tiny.cc/tnjv7w>
TUC Playfair Qatar:
playfairqatar.org.uk
TUC event page:
tuc.org.uk/workers-memorial-day
Ethical Trading Initiative:
ethicaltrade.org
Hazards:
hazards.org/wmd
Labour Behind the Label:
labourbehindthelabel.org
Greater Manchester Hazards Centre:
gmhazards.org.uk/

1 May

May Day

Suggested activities:

- Produce/circulate flyer on persecution of trade unionists around the world (e.g. Colombia, Swaziland, Philippines, Iran, and

Resources:

UNISON International Facebook:
unison.org.uk/international
facebook.com/pages/UNISON-

Guatemala).

- Take part in commemorations marking May Day in your workplace, town/city.
- Invite speaker to branch/commemoration.
- Publicise online campaigns/petitions in support of labour rights.

International

UNISON Twitter:

[@UNISON_global](https://twitter.com/UNISON_global)

TUC international

tuc.org.uk/international-issues

PSI global union:

world-psi.org

ICTUR:

ictur.org

Labour Start:

labourstart.org

Labour Behind the Label:

labourbehindthelabel.org

Amnesty International UK:

www.amnesty.org.uk

15 May

Naqba Day

Commemorates the expulsion and exile of Palestinians in 1948

Suggested activities:

- Get involved in the PSC/UNISON divestment campaign.
- Support PSC online petitions.
- Get branch to affiliate to PSC.

Resources:

UNISON International Facebook:

unison.org.uk/international

[facebook.com/pages/UNISON-](https://facebook.com/pages/UNISON-International)

[International](https://facebook.com/pages/UNISON-International)

UNISON Twitter:

[@UNISON_global](https://twitter.com/UNISON_global)

Palestine Solidarity Campaign

palestinecampaign.org

17 May

International Day Against Homophobia, Biphobia and Transphobia

Suggested activities:

- Liaise with branch equality officer and LGBT officer to organise a joint activity to highlight homophobia, biphobia and transphobia around the world.
- Invite a speaker to branch meeting.
- Encourage your branch to support and affiliate to the International Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Intersex Association (ILGA).
- Distribute purple ribbons to raise awareness and engage colleagues.
- Promote online campaigns/petitions.

Resources:

Amnesty International UK:

amnesty.org.uk

ILGA:

<http://ilga.org>

UNISON LGBT:

unison.org.uk/member-groups/lgbt

Labour Start:

labourstart.org

UNISON LGBT International

factsheet: [unison.org.uk/LGBT-](https://unison.org.uk/LGBT-factsheet)

[factsheet](https://unison.org.uk/LGBT-factsheet)

12 June

World Day Against Child Labour

Suggested activities:

- Affiliate to organisations campaigning against child labour.
- Liaise with other unions in schools to link into

Resources:

ILO:

ilo.org/campaigns/wdacl

UN:

campaigns calling for girls to have the right to education.

- Promote the ILO's Forced Labour Protocol calling for countries to ratify.

un.org/en/events/childlabourday

Anti-Slavery International:

antislavery.org

Amnesty International UK:

amnesty.org.uk

PSI Education:

world-psi.org/en/issue/education-media-and-culture-staff

ILO Forced Labour Protocol info:

iloblog.org/forced-labour

50forfreedom website:

50forfreedom.org

5 June (week commencing)

Anniversary of the occupation of the West Bank, East Jerusalem and the Gaza Strip

Suggested activities:

- Affiliate to the Palestine Solidarity Campaign (PSC)
- Take part in PSC actions and events against the occupation
- Invite a speaker to your branch

Resources:

Palestine Solidarity Campaign

palestinecampaign.org

20 June

World Refugee Day

Suggested activities:

- Write to your MP calling on the government to respond to the ongoing refugee crisis.
- Support organisations working with and campaigning for the rights of refugees.
- Publicise the issue of refugee rights in your branch.
- Get your branch to affiliate to Hope Not Hate.

Resources:

Refugee Action:

refugee-action.org.uk

Doctors of the World:

doctorsoftheworld.org.uk

The Refugee Council:

refugeecouncil.org.uk

City of Sanctuary:

cityofsanctuary.org

Women for Refugee Women:

refugeewomen.co.uk

Hope Not Hate:

hopenothate.org.uk

23 June

International Public Service Day

Suggested activities:

- Encourage members to sign petitions raising concerns about impact trade agreements will have on public services.
- Promote PSI campaigns calling for quality public services.

Resources:

UNISON:

unison.org.uk

Public Services International (PSI):

world-psi.org/quality-public-services

PSI Ebola:

world-psi.org/en/issue/Ebola

Global Justice Now:

globaljustice.org.uk

War on Want:

waronwant.org

5 July

69th birthday of the NHS

Suggested activities:

- Request and circulate supporting statements from unions in other countries.
- Celebrate in your branch – link to our work protecting the NHS.
- Celebrate the contribution of migrant workers to the NHS.

Resources:

UNISON unison.org.uk

11 July

Srebrenica Memorial Day

Suggested activities:

- Coordinate fundraising activities with your branch using the official fundraising toolkit as a guide.
- Issue a statement from the branch commemorating the day
- Affiliate to HMDT
- Affiliate to Hope Not Hate

Resources:

Srebrenica memorial Day website:

srebrenica.org.uk/memorial-day

Fundraising toolkit:

[srebrenica.org.uk /fundraising-toolkit](http://srebrenica.org.uk/fundraising-toolkit)

Holocaust Memorial Day Trust:

hmd.org.uk

Hope Not Hate:

hopenothate.org.uk

18 July

Mandela Day

Suggested activities:

- Link to ACTSA online campaigns/petitions.
- Get branch to affiliate to ACTSA.
- Invite speaker to branch meeting.
- Liaise with black members' officer on other actions.

Resources:

Action for Southern Africa:

actsa.org

UNISON black members:

unison.org.uk/black-members

Nelson Mandela Day:

mandeladay.com/

30 July

UN World Day Against Trafficking in Persons

Suggested activities:

- Raise awareness of and contribute to social media activity on the Twitter hashtag [#IGiveHope](https://twitter.com/IGiveHope)
- Affiliate to Anti-Slavery International and/or Amnesty International to link into their campaigns.

Resources:

WDATP events details website:

un.org/en/events/humantrafficking/

WDATP resources:

un.org/en/events/resources

Amnesty International UK:

amnesty.org.uk

Anti-Slavery International:

antislavery.org

23 August

Remembrance of the Slave Trade and its Abolition

Suggested activities:

- Liaise with black members' officer on possible actions in your branch.
- Publicise issue of modern day slavery

Resources:

UNISON black members page:

unison.org.uk/member-groups/black-members

especially in Qatar where FIFA World Cup taking place in 2022, and in UK where forced labour is on the rise.

- Get involved in the TUC Playfair Qatar campaign.
- Get your branch to affiliate to Amnesty International and Anti-Slavery International.
- Promote the petition calling for ratification of the ILO Forced Labour Protocol.

TUC Playfair Qatar:

playfairqatar.org.uk

Amnesty International UK:

amnesty.org.uk

Anti Slavery International:

antislavery.org

ILO Forced Labour Protocol:

ioblog.org/ilo-protocol-on-forced-labour

50forfreedom website:

50forfreedom.org

21 September

International Day of Peace

Suggested activities:

- Promote the peace campaign in Colombia.
- Get branch to affiliate to JFC.
- Promote online campaigns/petitions from JFC.
- Get your branch to affiliate to AIUK.

Resources:

Amnesty International UK

amnesty.org.uk

Justice for Colombia

justiceforcolombia.org

Peace One Day peaceoneday.org

UN un.org/events/peaceday

23 September

Bi Visibility Day

Suggested activities:

- Liaise with equalities officers on linking international dimension to Bi Visibility Day.
- Promote e-actions to memorialise those have been killed due to anti-transgender prejudice.

Resources:

Bi Visibility Day website and events:

bivisibilityday.com/year2016/

Bi Visibility Day Facebook page:

facebook.com/bivisibility

UNISON bisexuality – a trade union

issue: [unison.org.uk/bisexuality-](http://unison.org.uk/bisexuality-factsheet)

[factsheet](http://unison.org.uk/bisexuality-factsheet)

UNISON LGBT regional officers:

unison.org.uk/lgbt/contacts/

October

Black History Month
European Week of Safety and Health

Suggested activities:

Black History Month:

- Liaise with other branch officers to promote activities suggested in other parts of this calendar including remembrance of slave trade, anti-apartheid movement, Mary Seacole appeal for statue to be erected in her honour.

Resources:

Black history month:

blackhistorymonth.org.uk

UNISON black members:

unison.org.uk/about/our-organisation/member-groups/black-members

Mary Seacole appeal:

maryseacoleappeal.org.uk

UNISON Black History Month flyer:

unison.org.uk/blackhisotrymonthflyer

European Week of Safety and Health:

TUC:

- Liaise with branch H&S officer regarding joint activities with the employer, including safety inspections, a review of risk assessments, etc.
- Conduct workplace safety rep inspections on the Wednesday of the Week, national inspection day (UK).
- Discuss workplace health and safety concerns with members, non-members, and the employer.
- Order or download materials from UNISON.
- Continue supporting UNISON's ongoing campaign on tackling work related stress (launched at the national H&S seminar on 29 March).

tuc.org.uk/workers-memorial-day
 Ethical Trading Initiative:
ethicaltrade.org
 Hazards:
hazards.org/wmd
 UNISON ethical procurement briefing:
unison.org.uk/procurement-briefing
 Labour Behind the Label:
labourbehindthelabel.org

7 October

World Day for Decent Work

Suggested activities:

- Ask to meet with your employer about purchasing (procurement) policies to ensure there are no abuses in their supply chains.
- Promote Living Wage campaigns – link national issue to international issue e.g. underemployment in UK and Philippines.
- Use flyers and online petitions to highlight the day.
- Invite speaker to branch meeting
- Publicise campaigns to abolish zero hour contracts at home and abroad.
- Tax justice – fair taxation can create decent work – promote online petitions to highlight benefits of fair taxation policies.
- Promote the petition calling for ratification of the ILO Forced Labour Protocol.

Resources:

ITUC campaign event page:
ituc-csi.org/world-day-for-decent-work
 ILO Forced Labour Protocol:
iloblog.org/ilo-protocol-on-forced-labour
 50forfreedom website:
50forfreedom.org
 UNISON Living Wage campaign
unison.org.uk/a-living-wage/
 Trade Justice Movement
tjm.org.uk
 Global Justice Now
globaljustice.org.uk

11 October

UN International Day of the Girl Child

Suggested activities:

- Raise awareness of and contribute to social media activity on the Twitter hashtag [#DayOfTheGirl](https://twitter.com/DayOfTheGirl) or on the Facebook page.
- Use the documents on the resources webpages to disseminate detailed information around the day.

Resources:

IDotGC website and resources:
un.org/en/events/girlchild/
 IDotGC Facebook page:
facebook.com/DayOfTheGirl

4 November

Rally for Palestine

Suggested activities:

- Take part in the Palestine Solidarity Campaign rally in London
- Promote other PSC actions against the occupation and settlements.

Resources:

Palestine Solidarity Campaign
palestinecampaign.org

20 November

Transgender Day of Remembrance

Suggested activities:

- Liaise with equalities officers on linking international dimension to Transgender Day of Remembrance.
- Promote e-actions to memorialise those have been killed due to anti-transgender prejudice.

Resources:

TDoR website:
tdor.info/about-2/
TDoR Facebook page:
facebook.com/Black-OUT-Transgender-Day-of-Remembrance
UNISON LGBT regional officers:
unison.org.uk/lgbt/contacts/

25 November

International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women

Suggested activities:

- Issue branch statement on ERAW and our commitment to challenge and lobby for action at home and abroad.
- Encourage members to wear white ribbons to raise awareness.
- Distribute leaflets about the issues.
- Promote online campaigns/petitions.
- Speak to non-members about UNISON's work to ERAW.
- Get branch to affiliate to solidarity organisations working to ERAW Promote the ILO's Forced Labour Protocol calling for its ratification.
- Promote Burma Campaign's campaign to stop VAW and rape as a weapon of war.

Resources:

Action for Southern Africa:
actsa.org
Amnesty International UK:
amnesty.org.uk
Burma Campaign UK:
burmacampaign.org.uk
ILO Forced Labour Protocol:
iloblog.org/ilo-protocol-on-forced-labour
50forfreedom website:
50forfreedom.org
Justice for Colombia:
justiceforcolombia.org
PSI women:
world-psi.org/en/topic/women
PSI ERAW:
world-psi.org/en/issue/vaw
UNISON:
unison.org.uk/about/our-organisation/member-groups/women
UN event website:
un.org/en/events/endviolenceday

29 November

International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People

Suggested activities:

- Advertise the annual lobby of parliament
- Have a petition or letter writing campaign/stall focusing on local MPs.
- Lobby MPs' constituency offices
- Promote Zaytoun Palestinian produce in your branch.
- Get involved in the UNISON/PSC divestment campaign.
- Use activities to encourage non members to join UNISON.

Resources:

UNISON international Facebook page:
unison.org.uk/international
facebook.com/pages/UNISON-International
UNISON International Twitter:
Twitter @UNISON_global
Palestine Solidarity Campaign:
palestinecampaign.org
UN event page:
un.org/en/events/palestinianday
Zaytoun zaytoun.org

December

Disability History Month

1 December

World AIDS Day

Suggested activities:

- Leaflet workplace to raise awareness
- Inviting speaker to branch.
- Promote wearing of red ribbon (order from World AIDS Day website).
- Issue branch statement in consultation with branch sec, H&S officer and publicity officer.
- Link UNISON's work on HIV/AIDS to international policy.

Resources:

Stop AIDS Campaign:
stopaids.org.uk
World AIDS Day:
worldaidsday.org

10 December

Human Rights Day

Suggested activities:

- Link with, for example, local Amnesty International groups to set up a stall in the workplace featuring urgent actions in one of UNISON's priority areas/countries.
- Highlight UNISON's work supporting human rights defenders.
- Get your branch to affiliate to solidarity organisation working to promote human rights.
- Promote an e-action calling for an end to human and labour rights violations (check resources for current actions)
- Wear an orange ribbon.
- Get involved in UNISON's 'route of shame' to shed light on human rights abuses.

Resources:

Amnesty International:
amnesty.org.uk
Burma Campaign UK:
burmacampaign.org.uk
Campaign for Human Rights in the Philippines:
chrp.org.uk
Committee for the Defence of Iranian rights CODIR:
codir.net
Justice for Colombia:
justiceforcolombia.org
Palestine Solidarity Campaign:
palestinecampaign.org
Western Sahara Campaign:
wsahara.org.uk
Labour Start:
labourstart.org

18 December

International Migrants Day

Suggested activities:

- Hold a lunchtime activity to celebrate the contribution migrant workers play in the workplace and use it as recruitment/organising event. Include activities linked to Our Day campaign – photo ops, speakers at lunchtime meetings, etc.
- Get the branch to become a friend of Hope Not Hate.
- Support Public Services International no recruitment fees campaign

Resources:

Migrants Rights Network:
our-day.org or migrantsrights.org.uk
UN:
un.org/en/events/migrantsday
Hope Not Hate:
hopenothate.org.uk
Public Services International
world-psi.org/en

UNISON supports the following organisations and encourages branches and regions to support, and affiliate where there is an affiliation option

Action for Southern Africa (ACTSA)

actsa.org

Amnesty International UK (AIUK)

amnesty.org.uk

Anti-Slavery International

antislavery.org

Banana Link

bananalink.org.uk

Burma Campaign UK (BCUK)

burmacampaign.org.uk

Campaign for Human Rights in the Philippines (CHRP)

chrp.org.uk

Committee for Defence of the Iranian Peoples' Rights (CODIR)

codir.net

Cuba Solidarity Campaign (CSC)

cuba-solidarity.org.uk

International Brigade Memorial trust

international-brigades.org.uk

International Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Intersex Association (ILGA)

ilga.org

Jubilee Debt Campaign

jubileedebtcampaign.org.uk

Justice for Colombia (JFC)

justiceforcolombia.org

Labour behind the Label

labourbehindthelabel.org

Nicaragua Solidarity Campaign Action Group (NSCAG)

nicaraguasc.org.uk

Palestine Solidarity Campaign (PSC)

palestinecampaign.org

Stop AIDS

stopaids.org.uk

Tamil Solidarity Campaign

tamilsolidarity.org

Trade Justice Movement (TJM)

tjm.org.uk

Venezuela Solidarity Campaign (VSC)

venezuelasolidarity.co.uk

War on Want (WoW)

waronwant.org

Western Sahara Campaign

wsahara.org.uk

Global Justice Now

globaljustice.org.uk

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