



130 Euston Road  
London NW1 2AY  
Tel: 0845 355 0845  
www.unison.org.uk  
Direct tel: 020 7121 5587  
Direct fax: 020 7121 5101  
E-mail: c.derrig@unison.co.uk

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Dear Friends

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>PRELIMINARY AGENDA: UNISON NATIONAL LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL AND TRANSGENDER PLUS CONFERENCE</b></p>
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Enclosed are the preliminary agenda and standing orders for the UNISON national lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender plus conference, which takes place on 15-17 November 2019 at the Bournemouth International Centre.

Amendments to motions are now invited from branch and regional lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender plus (LGBT+) groups, the national networks of Black and disabled LGBT+ members and bisexual and transgender members, the national young members' forum and the national LGBT+ committee. Amendments should be submitted using UNISON's online conference system (OCS) by 12 noon Friday 20 September.

The standing orders committee has asked that the following advice contained in national guidelines be drawn to your attention:

"Amendments should not be used to promote essentially alternative motions or as merely a substitute for voting against a motion. Therefore amendments are likely to be ruled out of order (as wrecking amendments) if they:

- Introduce a direct negative into the motion;
- Reduce the motion to a mere restatement of existing policy;
- Seek to change fundamentally the purposes of the motion."

The conference agenda is used in a number of different formats including standard and large print, Braille and tape. Amendments which refer to specific lines or the position of words in lines in one format, may not make sense in other formats.

When wording amendments, avoid using phrases such as:

delete the third and fourth line of the first paragraph; or  
after the fourth word on the second line, "insert the following..."

Better practice is:

insert "urgently" between "instruct the national LGBT+ committee" and "to appoint", in the second sentence of the first paragraph; or  
insert "and local" between "national" and "campaigns" in the last sentence of the final paragraph.

**MAKE SURE**

- i) That it is clear where the amendment is to be inserted or to which part of the motion it applies.
- ii) That the instructions accompanying your amendment will be clear to all delegates.
- iii) That the amendment is presented in the simplest form possible."

The deadline for proposals for motions/amendments to rule for the 2020 national delegate conference and service group conferences is 12 noon Friday 20 September. These should be submitted using the OCS. Nomination of delegates for the 2020 national delegate conference, service group conferences, 2020 TUC LGBT+ conference and for seats on the 2020 national LGBT+ conference standing orders committee is also noon Friday 20 September.

Motions on the preliminary agenda have been divided up into the sections of the national LGBT+ committee's annual report as follows: negotiating, recruitment and organising, campaigning and international.

### **START AND FINISH TIMES**

In addition to the full conference sessions, there are a range of meetings for caucuses and other groups. The full programme will be included in the conference guide. To help members plan their travel we include the following information:

The timetable for Friday 15 November is:

1.30pm – meet and greet opens

1.30pm-1.55pm – trans members' caucus

2pm-2.25pm – disabled members' caucus

2.30pm-2.55pm – bi members' caucus

3pm-3.35pm – young members' meeting

3.40pm-4.10pm – Labour Link meeting

Other events taking place during the afternoon include:

2pm-2.45pm and 3pm-3.45pm – film show

2pm-4pm – drop-in sessions

3.40pm-4.10pm – introduction to conference for new and not so new delegates (repeated on Saturday morning)

4.15pm-5pm – regional meetings (Eastern, London, South East, South West, Wales and West Midlands)

5pm-5.45pm – regional meetings (East Midlands, Northern, Northern Ireland, North West, Scotland and Yorkshire & Humberside)

6pm-7.15pm – service group meetings

Conference opens formally at 9.45am on Saturday 16 November and closes at 1.20pm on Sunday 17 November.

### **PRIORITISATION OF MOTIONS**

Please note that in October the OCS will generate an email which will be sent to regional lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender plus (LGBT+) groups, the national networks of Black and disabled LGBT+ members and bisexual and transgender members, the national young members' forum and the national LGBT+ Committee. The email will ask these groups to detail, in order of preference, six motions from the final agenda that they consider should be given priority for debate at conference.

### **FURTHER INFORMATION**

For enquiries about delegate registration and practical arrangements, contact the UNISON conference office on 0207 121 5123 or email: [c.cresswell@unison.co.uk](mailto:c.cresswell@unison.co.uk); for enquiries about the preliminary agenda, contact Colin Derrig 0207 121 5587; for policy matters, contact Susan Mawhood on 0207 121 5799 or email: [s.mawhood@unison.co.uk](mailto:s.mawhood@unison.co.uk).

With best wishes

*Colin Derrig*

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Secretary, national LGBT+ conference standing orders committee