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Dear Friends

**PRELIMINARY AGENDA:
UNISON NATIONAL LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL AND TRANSGENDER PLUS CONFERENCE**

Enclosed are the preliminary agenda and standing orders for the UNISON national lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender plus (LGBT+) conference, which takes place on 18-20 November 2022 at the Edinburgh International Conference Centre, The Exchange, EH3 8EE.

Amendments to motions are now invited from branch and regional 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 23 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 2023 national delegate

conference and service group conferences is 12 noon Friday 23 September. These should be submitted using the OCS. Nomination of delegates for the 2023 national delegate conference, service group conferences, 2023 TUC LGBT+ conference and for seats on the 2023 national LGBT+ conference standing orders committee is also 12 noon Friday 23 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)

Regional Meetings and Service group meetings will take place between 4.15 and 7.15pm. Full details and actual times will be in the conference guide, that is sent to you four weeks before conference (unless you opt out of hard copies)

Conference opens formally at 9.45am on Saturday 19 November and closes at 1.20pm on Sunday 20 November.

PRIORITISATION OF MOTIONS

Please note that in October the OCS will generate an email which will be sent to regional 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: s.barlow@unison.co.uk . For enquiries about the preliminary agenda, contact Colin Derrig 0207 121 5587 or email: c.derrig@unison.co.uk . For policy matters, contact Mitchell Coe on 07903 853072 or email: m.coe@unison.co.uk .

With best wishes

Colin Derrig

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Secretary, national LGBT+ conference standing orders committee