**HOW TO GET TO UNISON DISABLED MEMBERS CONFERENCE 2023**

This year’s UNISON Disabled Members conference is in Edinburgh on 28-30 October. Hundreds of disabled UNISON members debate our issues and influence UNISON’s thinking on disability equality. If you’ve not been before, we recommend it!

The conference bulletin with all the details and deadlines will be on UNISON’s website from mid April. There’s a lot to take in, so here are some common questions and their answers.

**Who can attend?**

Any UNISON member who identifies as disabled can apply to their branch to attend. Branches have the right decide how many members to send, but all are urged to register at least one delegate.

**How do you apply?**

Speak to your branch secretary as soon as possible, find out how and when the branch delegation will be agreed and tell them you want to go. As well as agreeing overall numbers, they must make sure the delegation meets UNISON’s rules on fair representation. Your branch can’t send a delegation of just two men, for example – they 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 especially welcome. Registration usually closes at the end of July – check the conference bulletin for the exact date.

**How are accommodation and travel arranged?**

The conference bulletin will include information on accommodation and how to book 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. Check the conference bulletin for the deadline for crèche registration.

**What if I need reasonable adjustments?**

UNISON aims to provide a fully accessible event for disabled members but has to know what people need in advance. Once your branch has registered you, you will receive an email from UNISON’s Online Conference System (OCS) which will ask you to register your reasonable adjustments. Make sure you explain the barriers you face in full so that a decision can be made.

**How can you prepare for conference?**

You’ll be sent a detailed delegate pack in the run-up to conference. Have a good look through it – it includes information for first timers and a jargon buster. Make sure you get to your regional disabled members group’s pre-conference meeting, where you will meet other delegates and learn more about how conference works.

**Anything else?**

If you have any other questions, please contact us at disabilityissues@unison.co.uk

We look forward to meeting you in Edinburgh.