

Black Members in

BLACK HISTORY MONTH SPECIAL BY EVELYN WILLIAMS



2023 - Year of the black worker

This is UNISON's Year of Black Workers.

UNISON has 185,000 Black members, most of whom work in health and local government services, with significant numbers working in social care and schools. Many deliver frontline services, and many are low paid.

UNISON national officer for race equality
Margaret Greer said: "The Year of Black Workers
will focus UNISON on the important issues that
affect Black members and their everyday lives,
with their lived experiences being central to our
challenging Racism in the Workplace Toolkit.
This focus is vital in these testing times for race
relations in the UK today."

The toolkit can be downloaded here: https://tinyurl.com/3njw4d5k

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Creating a storm on 'X'

As Home Secretary Suella Braverman moved to make her speech at the Conservative party conference on October 3rd, a campaign led by Stand Up To Racism and supported by UNISON brought #BravermanOut and #RefugeesWelcome to trend on X (formally Twitter) during an afternoon Twitterstorm.

The former slogan demanding the resignation of the Home Secretary reached number three in UK trends. The latter slogan continued to trend long after the 1pm to 2pm Twitterstorm, expressing solidarity with refugees in wake of the government's assault on the 1951 UN Convention enshrining the internationally recognised human right to seek asylum.

Anti racists argue that the home Secretary's speech was designed to manipulate and polarise ahead of the general election, shockingly referencing a "hurricane" of "illegal migrants" or "bogus asylum seekers".

Dates for your diary - Black History Month

7th October 1:30pm

WINDRUSH CYMRU @75

A documentary funded by the

Welsh Government

Venue: Cineworld Cardiff

18th October

BLACK HISTORY WALES LECTURE 2023

Venue: Senedd Cymru Building,

Pierhead St. Cardiff

24th October

WEBINAR: Engaging with Black Women - From activists to leadership Register here:

https://us06web.zoom.us/meetin g/register/tZcpc-

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7GkgwB

11th January 6pm (then every 6 weeks)

BRANCH BLACK MEMBERS FORUM

Venue: Green Lady pub,
Pontygwindy Road, Caerphilly





Message from Evelyn Williams

Greeting colleagues,

What a busy year it's been for me! I've met a famous footballer and starred in my own Hollywood movie! (well maybe the last bit is an exaggeration but more on that later...

A large part of my work this year as Branch Black Members Officer has focused on ensuring that members stand up to and challenge racism in all it's vile forms. I also attend National Delegates
Conference this year which was held
in Liverpool. At this I was
exceptionally pleased to hear
UNISON nationally reaffirm it's
commitment to make 2023 the Year
of the Black Worker - a cause I am
very passionate about.

Whilst at Conference I got to meet Ex-Liverpool Footballer John Barnes at a Stand Up To Racism fringe event who spoke for over an hour on the prejudices and challenges he has faced and continues to face whilst in the public eye.

And finally my acting career began(!)
I was deeply honoured to be filmed
for a UNISON social worker
recruitment drive (which can be
viewed here:

https://tinyurl.com/jajjyam8) that I hope will be widely shared to recruit members of all ethnicities everywhere. I hope anyone who is subjected to prejudices realise they do not have to fight these on their own. In the words of a song that John Barnes may be familiar with: You'll Never Walk Alone. Join UNISON today by clicking the link here: https://join.unison.org.uk/

