



# Black Members in UNISON

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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## 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/>

# 2023

**YEAR OF  
BLACK WORKERS**

Establishing legacy to  
generate change

**UNISON**  
the public service union