



# SOUTH WEST YOUNG MEMBERS

[southwest.unison.org.uk/equality/south-west-young-members/](https://southwest.unison.org.uk/equality/south-west-young-members/)



A group of young heroes has emerged in the verdant lands of the South West, determined to champion the voice of UNISON. As the protectors of the union's values, they rally fearless young minds and fuel the fires of innovation. With boundless enthusiasm, they strive for transformation, advocating for their colleagues' safety, respect, and fair compensation. Age is no barrier, as all individuals thirty and under can join these forum heroes and shape the union's future.

As we start to look at the plan ahead for 2024 we have a range of ways that as Young Members you can get more involved in what UNISON in the Southwest does and become part of a network of young people. Our regional forum will meet throughout the year. A great way to support each other, network, gain skills and learn more about the union. You will also get to visit some of the events and meetings that take place to ensure that young people are represented and heard throughout the Southwest Structures of the union.

The regional forum also needs two members to engage in our National Young Members forum. You don't need any previous experience and we have UNISON staff to support you at all times.

# Meet some of our South West Delegates 2023

## National Young Members conference, Newcastle, 2023.



My name is **Emily** and I'm the workplace representative for a domestic abuse charity based in Bristol. The Young Member's Conference provided me the opportunity to meet some amazing fellow young trade unionists in my region and helped to demystify the UNISON structures which I previously found quite confusing!



Hi! I'm **Syd**, a Student Administrator from the University of Bristol Branch. In my workplace I represent UNISON at Faculty Joint Trade Union Meetings alongside colleagues from Unite and UCU. This was my first time at conference and I loved meeting other delegates from my region and beyond. It was great to hear so many passionate speakers and to learn more about how UNISON works and how I can get more involved in the future. I'd thoroughly recommend it to anyone who's interested!



My name is **Alistair** and I work for NHS Blood and Transplant in the South West Region. I am the Young Members Officer for my branch and I am really looking forward to getting more involved in UNISON over the coming years. I thought the conference was an absolute fantastic way to represent what young members do across the country within UNISON. It was an absolute honour to meet so many young members from different backgrounds and learn about what I can do to help UNISON achieve its overall goals.



Hello! I'm **Archie** and I'm a Temporary Accommodation Support Officer at South Hams District and West Devon Borough Council. This year I became the Young Members Officer for my branch and have greatly enjoyed the opportunities offered by UNISON. So far, I have attended an officer training weekend at Croyde Bay, gone through steward training to better support members, and attended the recent National Young Members Conference! The conference was a great opportunity to meet other trade unionists my age and experience the ins and outs of how motions and voting works. Although our forum's motions were ruled out of order, I'm confident that the skills learned at the event will greatly help our chances next year and I look forward to getting to it!



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My name is **David Esteban Rodriguez**, I'm a Senior Student Administrator in the University of Bristol branch and I am one of the Co-Execs for the Black Members Equalities team. This was my first conference that I attended and it was a really great opportunity to learn how our union works and to meet a lot of like minded passionate people fighting for equality for all. This conference further fuelled my passion for wanting to make a difference within UNISON for all of our members.



**Say Hi to Roberta**



**Say Hi to Bryn**



**Say Hi to Shannon**

### **UNISON has over 100,000 young members**

If you are a UNISON member and aged 30 or under you are automatically entitled to participate as a young member. Young members' groups work to:

- encourage recruitment, organisation and participation of young workers
- provide a powerful voice for young members
- give young members the opportunity to develop the skills and knowledge necessary to participate in the union.

As a young member you are supported by a union of 1.3 million members who can assist you with support, training, advice and guidance.

UNISON encourages young members to get involved in every level of the organisation. At regional level young members get together to plan and organise campaigns and discuss ideas and experiences.



**FREE LEARNING AVAILABLE.** Did you know that UNISON offers a range of FREE learning for its members?

**<https://southwest.unison.org.uk/events/>**



**Not a member?**  
**Join Today!**  
**[join.unison.org.uk](https://join.unison.org.uk)**



We received just under 60 responses to our survey which the South West forum will be looking over in the New Year.

The Housing crisis is disproportionately affecting young people. Young members of the South west have had enough. Help us to campaign against the housing crisis. Our forum will look through the responses in the New Year and campaign details will follow.



And the winner is.....

**Casey from Poole**  
*Congratulations*

**Interested in learning more about your union?**

**17 – 19 May 2024**

**[southwest.unison.org.uk/events/getactive2024/](https://southwest.unison.org.uk/events/getactive2024/)**

**Our Get Active event could be just what you're looking for?**

With a number of different workshops , learning and networking this is a great event for anyone new to learning more about your union. Accommodation and expenses are provided so that you are not out of pocket to attend any of our UNISON events and learning.

**Get Acti>e**

*Save the Date*



**UNISON YOUNG MEMBERS SOUTH WEST**



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