



SOUTH WEST YOUNG MEMBERS

JUNE 2024

southwest.unison.org.uk/equality/south-west-young-members/

Congratulations

Elizabeth Johnson named [South West Young Member of the Year](#) & has also stepped up to be our next forum Co -Chair



This year's Young Member of the Year award goes to Elizabeth Johnson for her work engaging young members in her workplace and supporting branch recruitment at every opportunity. A member of Gloucestershire Police branch, Elizabeth has set up and run recruitment events welcoming new starters to the force which has significantly strengthened the union's presence in her workplace. We also welcome her as one of our new Young Member Co-Chairs of the South West Forum.

What is?

We get so many questions asking us what the forum is all about and who can be involved?



At regional young members' forum meetings you get the chance to meet young members from elsewhere in your region, and to discuss your experiences and ideas. You also get to plan young member activities and get support from other members in the region. Young members in UNISON are 30 and under.

All our Young members from across the region are invited to come along, you do not need to be a Young Members Officer or active in your local branch, all young members are invited to join the forum.

We meet online through out the year and also hold training and social events. The Forum is supported by regional staff and a x 2 Co-Chairs (members from within the young members forum) who help to facilitate meetings , communicate and get everyone together.

To ensure that voices of young people are heard at all levels of your union we have:

- Young Members Officers in Branches
- Regional Young Forum Meetings & Activities
- Delegates who attend regional meetings & conferences

YOUNG MEMBER EVENT

ONLINE WORKSHOP



**THUR
27
JUNE**

MOTION WRITING

ONLINE | 18:00-20:00pm | MS TEAMS

Open to all Young Members in the South West.

This course is designed to give all in UNISON the knowledge, confidence and skills required to write and move effective motions. A 'motion' is a trade union way of asking for something. So this is where we look at what the regional south west forum members want to "ask" the national Young members forum to do. Our Young members Conference goes ahead in November in Swansea.

The course will help attendees to:

- Understand how an effective motion is constructed
- Understand UNISON's rules on motions and UNISON's structures
- Practice writing motions that effectively deliver on their contents
- Develop the confidence to move motions in different contexts - from branch meetings to national conferences

Tutor: Mark Everden UNISON | ONLINE VIA MS Teams



2024 PLANS.....

Some of our forum members have met and a plan of meetings, activities and training have been drafted.

These details are a draft and may be subject to change. We are seeking confirmation on tutors and speakers to attend our forum meetings. All our confirmed dates are available via our website.

southwest.unison.org.uk/equality/south-west-young-members/

YOUNG MEMBER EVENTS SCHEDULE

THUR 27 JUNE **MOTION WRITING WORKSHOP**
ONLINE | 18:00-20:00pm | OPEN TO ALL YOUNG MEMBERS

SUMMER FORUM MEET
ONLINE | 18:00-19:30pm | OPEN TO ALL YOUNG MEMBERS | WE HAVE INVITED A SPEAKER FROM BATH STUDENTS UNION TO SHARE UPDATES ON THEIR HOUSING CAMPAIGN

WED 14 AUG **WEBINAR - KNOW YOUR RIGHTS - HOUSING**
ONLINE WEBINAR | 12:30-13:30PM & 18:00-19:30PM

SPECIAL EVENT YOUNG MEMBER SOCIAL
OUR NEW CO CHAIR WILL LET YOU KNOW WHEN FULL. DETAILS ARE AVAILABLE

WED 2 OCT **AUTUMN FORUM MEET**
ONLINE | 18:00-19:30pm | OPEN TO ALL YOUNG MEMBERS

WED 13 NOV **CONFERENCE PRE MEET**
NATIONAL YOUNG MEMBERS CONFERENCE PRE MEET FOR REGISTERED DELEGATES | ONLINE | 18:00-19:30pm

FRI 29 NOV **NATIONAL YOUNG MEMBER CONFERENCE**
SWANSEA | 29th Nov - 1 DEC | REGISTRATION FOR THIS CONFERENCE WILL OPEN SOON

WINTER FORUM MEET
ONLINE | 18:00-19:30PM | OPEN TO ALL YOUNG MEMBERS | HEAR BACK FROM CONFERENCE AND CONNECT DURING THE FESTIVE TIME

[SOUTHWEST.UNISON.ORG.UK/EQUALITY/SOUTH-WEST-YOUNG-MEMBERS/](https://southwest.unison.org.uk/equality/south-west-young-members/)

AS OF JUNE 2024

7,900

YOU ARE PART OF APPROX 7,900 YOUNG MEMBERS IN UNISON SOUTH WEST

UNISON organises and gets young members together to ensure young members equality. UNISON young member Officers are there to ensure the voices of young people are heard through out the union, firstly in your branch and connecting through our networks.

Are you 30 and under? Our young members Officers work with other parts of the union to encourage recruitment, organisation and participation of young workers. The group also provides a powerful voice for young members and the opportunity to develop their skills and knowledge.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

In your local branch to ensure the voices of young people are heard why not look at the role of the [UNISON Young Member Officer](#):

The role of the branch young members' officer is ideal for someone who is interested in becoming more active in the union.

The post may be a stepping stone to becoming a steward or taking on wider roles. Volunteer and support with:

- recruiting new members and organising and encouraging existing young members to become active in the branch and in UNISON campaigns;
- building a branch young members' organisation and making sure there are potential new young members' officers in the future;
- making sure issues of concern to young workers are raised through the branch;
- acting as a focal point for all young workers in the branch and workplaces;
- receiving and distributing UNISON young members' information.

COMPLETE OUR SURVEY OF UNISON YOUNG MEMBERS.

In this survey we'll ask some questions about your experiences in UNISON, some questions about the cost of living, and some questions about you. <https://survey.alchemer.eu/s3/90699041/Young-Members-Survey-2024>



UNISON College - when we last surveyed members in the union around only 30% of the union knew about our FREE learning offers which are all part of our UNISON College.

You can check out the latest offers via our regional website or by visiting our national learning services



<https://southwest.unison.org.uk/events/>
or
<https://learning.unison.org.uk/events/>



UNISON Learning is FREE and if the event is in person you can seek support for travel and out of pocket expenses.



Ella Peters a member of our young members forum had an amazing opportunity when our regional CCPD (Campaigns, Comms & Political Development Committee) supported her to attend as a delegate on the Cuba Solidarity trip.

“On April 21st, I had the privilege of travelling to Cuba to take part in the Young Trade Unionists’ May Day Brigade along with 379 other delegates from 33 different countries”

Hear more about Ella’s trip. Ella will be speaking about her experience at [Tollpuddle Festival](#) 19-21st July in our UNIzone , our next Forum meeting on 23rd July and our Regional Council 5th October.



[Read Ella’s report](#)
& see more of her [photos](#)

DID YOU KNOW?

18 TO 24-YEAR-OLDS ARE THE LEAST LIKELY AGE GROUP TO GO TO THE POLLS ON 4 JULY.

We know that not everyone is totally political , yet most things we do in our everyday lives are connected to politics. The General Election is our chance to decide who we want to represent us in Parliament. In each area of the country (called a ‘constituency’), all eligible people aged 18 or over can vote for their Member of Parliament (MP).

Whoever is elected in your area will be an MP for up to five years. The election is an important opportunity to decide who will represent you in the House of Commons and take actions to make a real difference to you and your community. Voting for your local MP also has an impact on who runs the country. Whichever party or parties has the highest number of MPs will be given the opportunity to form a government, and their party leader will be the Prime Minister.

That’s why young people like you need to get involved! In the last general election in 2019, less than half of those aged 18 to 24 voted. (That’s in comparison to almost three quarters of those aged 65 and over.) Voting is an important way to ensure that young people’s concerns and experiences are considered by people in power.

#yourvote can

4 July is the general election

Your vote can help deliver the new deal for workers.

Your vote can save our public services.

Your vote can close the gender pay gap.