
NEC Elections 2023

Nominate Hugo Pierre

National Black Members Male Seat

Membership No. 1140926

Branch: Camden UNISON 3905

Co-Ordinate Action to Beat the Cost of Living Crisis

RPI inflation hit 19% in October! We are seeing big jumps in interest rates that are daily forcing most of us to choose between heating, eating or housing. Our pay has to rise to match these huge price increases. We need £15 an hour minimum wage now. Yet pay in the public sector is being held down.

Our Ambulance Service, Hospital and Higher Education members have started their pay action and must receive full solidarity from the whole union. We need to give full support to Health branches that are balloting for action. I have given my personal support to our members on strike both in the Health Service and Higher Education on their picket lines over the last two years.

Our priority as a union must be to submit pay claims in all sectors that match inflation to protect our living standards. We know employers aren't just going to give it to us and we need to organise for successful action to win. We must be strike ready in all sectors and I would make this a national priority. That was the reason I voted to increase our rates for strike pay on the NEC.

I will fight for us to co-ordinate our action across all of our members. But we should also be co-ordinating with other unions taking action to defend their members' living standards. I would support a 24 hour General Strike to win on pay!

Fight for Jobs

The Tories are gearing up for a new round of austerity to make us pay for their incompetent pro- big business economic management by putting a new squeeze on public sector finances. But our public services are already under severe pressure and staffing shortages are adding to the crisis in Health, Education and Social Care. Local Government is starved of funds and increasing numbers of Councils face the imposition of undemocratic financial restrictions under Section 114 notices. Our schools face a funding crisis.

Tories proved privatisation only works for their rich backers as shown during the pandemic. For our members privatisation leads to cuts in jobs, pay and conditions. For service users it leads to chaos and waste.

I will fight for UNISON to organise a campaign to win back the funds from the Tories for our services backed with national action against cuts and privatisation. Don't leave branches to fight alone.

We Must Get Organised

We can develop a fighting trade union that wins for members. We must build on the expertise and professionalism our members display in their working lives. We must do much more to encourage, train and develop our front line – the shop stewards and workplace activists that UNISON needs to respond to all the challenges we face. This is essential if we are to build a national campaign to co-ordinate national action that spreads solidarity and confidence amongst our members to win on pay, beat the cuts and fight against privatisation.

Fight to End Racism and Division

I am actively supporting UNISON's Year of the Black Worker and the UNISON enquiry to better fight racism affecting our members and in the wider society.

UNISON has evidence showing the COVID pandemic and the funding crisis in our services have had a disproportionate impact on Black members and the wider Black communities. I support developing an action plan to end this blatant discrimination.

The truth is cuts will discriminate. No action to fight the cuts leaves all our members but especially Black members more vulnerable to the sack. I want a national leadership that will fight this division. We must

oppose racist division and put our union at the head of a campaign for jobs, homes and services not racism. Other campaigns cannot substitute for the unity a movement of trade unions can build. Refugees, migrant workers or immigration didn't cause the economic collapse and austerity – bankers aided by right-wing governments did.

For a Member-Led Union

Our rules enshrine our right to campaign – even to change union policy! We have nothing to fear from genuine debate and discussion in our union. Our conference must be allowed to debate the issues and not have up to a third of motions you put forward ruled out before the conference begins.

I support the election of Regional Secretaries and all Senior Regional and National officers. They should be paid the average wage of those they seek to represent. Those representing our members should not be paid the salaries of our bosses! I am in favour of full lay-control of our officers.

I support more funding to branches. That's where our union gets its strength from. Branches represent members and must be given the funds to organise.

Put UNISON Members First

I have been a lifelong socialist and trade unionist committed to fighting for working people in the workplace and in my local community.

We need put our policies defending our members first. In my view UNISON should not be supporting candidates for political positions who will vote for cuts to our jobs, pay and conditions. I supported a resolution put to the Local Government Service Group that calls for UNISON members who are councillors, or MPs to support a no-cuts position that would back our members.

We need an anti-austerity working class party with public representatives that back our members' fight 100% now. How can a Labour Party that expels our President for liking a tweet, or dumps MPs from the Shadow Cabinet supporting their own union on strike against the cost of living crisis represent us.

I want the Tories out; they are riven with splits and incapable of solving any of the crises we face. I believe the best way to do that is to have political representatives that fight for UNISON policies in action. There are many other trade unionists that we could collaborate with to fight for a party that represents the interests of the working class as a whole.

My Experience

Members have elected me to the NEC since 2015. I would like to continue to campaign for our union to back our members with national action to beat the cost of living crisis and against austerity alongside other willing unions.

I am Camden UNISON's schools' convener and have led many successful campaigns to stop redundancies, school closures, service closures, stop schools converting to Academies (we still have no school conversions in Camden) and win pay rises particularly for the lowest paid. I would like to bring this experience to help turn our national union into a fighting organisation that branches and members can be sure will back them in a struggle.

I Chair the Greater London region Schools Sub-Committee and have been elected to the national Schools' Sector Committee.

Our National Leadership Should be Making a Difference for Our Members

UNISON's national leadership has to re-focus on fighting the challenges facing our members. We cannot afford distractions, personal ambition or bureaucratic manoeuvres to put us off course from the serious battles we face. We must have maximum democracy to enable members to fully participate and take the decisions necessary to win. We must match our members determination to win.

I am asking that you consider nominating me to stand in these important elections. I wish to stand alongside others who are for the membership not the paid officials. We need to change into a fighting trade union that's feared by the Government and employers and does a job for our members. Please also nominate April Ashley for the Female Black Members seats.