



Unison Black Members Conference 2010: Report

Date: 22-24 January 2010 Venue: Sage Gateshead

NTW Health Branch attendees:

1. Daisy Mbwanda
2. Brenda Ngwenya
3. Irene Mbwanda
4. Matilda Musendo
5. Antinette Mashavirah

Guest speakers: **Dave Prentis, Eleanor Smith, Razia Karim, Kemone Brown and Greg Thompson.**

The conference was effective, inclusive and enjoyable as the BM delegates from NTW branch really enjoyed the whole experience.

Delegates were networking, debating motions and above all working together. Also, delegates took part in Workshops, Service Group Meetings and Fringe Meetings. Of all the 24 motions that were debated, a few were carried and the NMBC reps are taking a leading role in working in partnership with RBMC and the regional management team to deliver Unison's black members needs.

In our region, we all decided to vote for motion 11 and motion 24 to go to the National Delegate Conference in June.

Motion 11: CAMPAIGN FOR EFFECTIVE EQUALITY LEGISLATION

Motion 24: THE CHALLENGE FOR MALARIA CONTROL

On Saturday Night, there was a social event which a lot people attended and this was to provide entertainment in order to promote participation.

Personal Experiences:

1. Daisy – *‘this time round I was aware of what takes place at a BM conference and how it is run as this was my second time attending. My highlight of the conference was when Dave Prentis spoke about the issues that affect BM at workplaces and that there is a lot to be done. My other highlight was when I attended the Health Service Group meeting facilitated by Trevor Johnston. He spoke about how the Northern Region is helping a lot of BM especially in the NTW Branch. I really enjoyed the debates and the conference as a whole, as well as the social event – what a fantastic night I had’*
2. Irene- *‘as a first time delegate, I found the conference as an opportunity to strongly express, promote and support motions that really matter to be carried forward hence participating in making a change and difference to the northern region’*
3. Antinette- *‘The conference was quite interesting especially the speeches made by Dave Prentis. It was such a good experience to have hosted the conference in the North East Region. I am looking forward to the next one’.*