

## What is a trade union?

Many young people don't know what a Trade Union is, or if they do they are often seen as unimportant, old fashioned and constantly calling strikes. This is far from the truth.

Trade unions are organisations of workers who come together to support each other in the workplace. Unions provide individuals with representation and also negotiate with employers to improve and protect pay, terms and conditions. They also campaign on laws and policies which will help people at home and at work. Many of the rights people enjoy at work today were won by trade union campaigning.

## Why be a member of a trade union?

Trade unions are here because as an individual you have very little power or influence over decisions that are made about your job. By uniting with your workmates you have a bigger voice and more control over decisions your employer makes that will affect you.

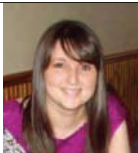
## Why are trade unions relevant to young people?

Young people need to be trade union members for support in tackling the problems they face at work. UNISON knows that young people are often not aware of their rights and face harassment, bullying and discrimination at work, they are also more likely to be low paid, and be on temporary or short term contracts.

## Why join UNISON?

UNISON wants young members to work together and organise to win improved working conditions and pay, campaign for better rights and actively challenge inequality. Young Members have a loud voice within UNISON and are an integral part of what we do. We have vibrant and active Young Members Groups at branch, regional and national level. UNISON is Britain and Europe's biggest public sector union with more than 1.3 million members.

**Remember you have a legal right to join a trade union and the legal right to be represented by a trade union if things go wrong at work.**



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# Young Members in UNISON



a million  
voices  
for  
public  
services



**A million voices for young people - add yours!**

[www.unison.org.uk/million](http://www.unison.org.uk/million)

If you want to join UNISON online, log on to [www.unison.org.uk/join](http://www.unison.org.uk/join)

## Northern Region Young Members Group

### JOIN IN

UNISON in the Northern Region has an active Young Members Group which meets regularly to discuss issues of common concern and interest to young members (aged 26 and under). Meetings are friendly and informal; they are an opportunity to get involved in shaping the union and making sure young members have their voice heard:

You can get involved in:

- \* National & Regional Young Members Weekends
- \* National & Regional Young Members Forums
- \* Social Events
- \* Campaigning on Young Members Issues
- \* Working at Music Festivals / Gigs
- \* Links with TUC Young Members Group



Young Member Meetings are open to all UNISON Young Members so why not come along? Travel expenses to attend meetings will be reimbursed. If you would like any further information please contact Dawn, Liam or Irene.



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## Young Members Officers

UNISON has over 4,600 Young Members in the Northern Region and every branch can have its own Young Members Officer. The Young Member's Officer role is an ideal role for someone interested in becoming more active within the union and wants to learn more about what is involved. You will be supported in your role by your Branch / Region, including:

- regular UNISON information
- involvement in branch work
- training courses
- advice on dealing with workplace problems

To find out more about becoming a Young Members Officer for your branch or find out if your branch already has a Young Members Officer and how to get active in your workplace, contact Dawn Nicholson, Regional Young Members Contact on 0191 245 0861; e-mail [d.nicholson@unison.co.uk](mailto:d.nicholson@unison.co.uk).

## Northern Region Young Members can attend the best music festivals for FREE!

### Young Members of UNISON now have the opportunity to attend music festivals for FREE!

UNISON Young Members Group has registered with the Workers Beer Company (WBC) which allows our young members the opportunity to volunteer to work at music festivals and gigs.

The WBC (founded by the TUC) supplies bars to festivals and raises money for organisations that work with it. The fundraising mechanism is simple: organisations like trades union branches, campaigns and solidarity groups send volunteers to serve drinks in WBC bars and beer tents. For every hour that volunteers contribute, £6.50 is donated to the parent organisation. It's a fun way for activists to make money for their organisation's work. Volunteers don't get paid, but get free entry to the festival, a couple of drinks at the end of shift, and when they are not working (shifts are usually six hours) they can enjoy the music / atmosphere of the festival. Where the event runs over a number of days the WBC will provide a secure campsite with toilets, showers and a subsidised canteen and bar.

Volunteers must be UNISON members and over 18. If you are interested in getting involved and having the opportunity to go to music festivals with UNISON please get in touch.



Join UNISON

Members can now join online

## Facebook

UNISON Northern Region Young Members Group has just recently set up its own Facebook Group—if you are a UNISON member under 27 years of age and would like to join the group please e-mail your name, UNISON branch and personal e-mail address to: [d.nicholson@unison.co.uk](mailto:d.nicholson@unison.co.uk).



Did you know Apprentices and those employed through the Future Jobs Fund can join UNISON for £10 per year?