

NOMINATE ABIOLA KUSORO FOR BLACK MEMBERS RESERVED SEAT NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COUNCIL ELECTIONS 2021



Membership Number: 4561760

Branch code: 3368 (Great Ormond Street Hospital)

Dear Colleagues,

My name is Abiola and I am the Branch Treasurer and Black Members Officer in Great Ormond Street Hospital UNISON branch. I am writing seeking your nomination for the Black Members Reserved Seat on the NEC. This is a position I am proud to have held for a few years, during which time I have fought the good fight.

It seems strange to be writing to you asking for your nomination for this election – I can barely believe that 2 years have passed. It has gone quickly, yet in the same breath, so much has happened.

I have looked back over the years at the regimes and policies and freezes that have been imposed upon our members and it saddens me somewhat to be writing to you now knowing that, despite all the good we have done, there is still much left to do.

This has been an unbelievable year, in which we have faced challenges we couldn't even have dreamed of. Challenges that have not replaced the existing struggles we faced, but have intensified them.

I am writing seeking your support because I believe now, more than ever, we need people on the NEC who do not easily tire. People who are willing to continue to say the same thing, over and over again until they are heard – because it is necessary and because it is right.

I have been a UNISON member for 20 years and a Branch Officer and workplace representative for 15 years. I have campaigned, lobbied, marched and rallied for positive change locally and nationally. I strongly believe that I have a duty to speak up for those whose voices are not heard and to fight to defend those who are unable to defend themselves.

In August 2020, after a long campaign, we succeeded in forcing the Trust to do a U-turn and agree to bring cleaning back in-house. This saved a number of jobs and protected the pensions and working conditions of hundreds of members of staff.

I am an active member of the Trust's Staff Partnership Forum which again, supports my goal of ensuring that all of our members are represented and their views are heard.

I pride myself on my tenacity and I give myself whole heartedly to the cause. I have been honoured to be able support members and the NHS throughout the pandemic and even in such a period of crisis, I have seen members and their rights taken for granted and disregarded. This is why I say that the fight does not end. New challenges do not necessarily signify the end of old ones, and it is for that reason that I am asking you to nominate me.

As a low paid Black female member, working within the NHS, I am acutely aware of the struggles that we are facing and with your support I can continue to bring key issues to the fore on a national platform.

The issues of:

- Racism
- Inequality and discrimination
- Low Pay
- Privatisation of public services

The death of George Floyd and the resurgence of the Black Lives Matter movement have been a poignant reminder that we must take action against injustice **before** it's too late. It is essential that we continue to bring to light the issues that plague our members and colleagues and push for positive lasting change, in our branches, local areas and in our country!

Thank you for taking the time to read this and for considering my nomination.

Please consider nominating:

- Manjula Kumari – Black Members Female Seat
- Conroy Lawrence – Black Members Male seat

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Abiola' with a stylized, overlapping structure.

Abiola