

## Ali Evans.

Membership Number 11745245

Seeking Nomination for the Female Seat, South West Region, National Executive Committee NEC.

Dear colleagues,

My name is Ali Evans.

I am writing to ask your branch to please support my request for nomination for the Female Seat for the South West Region in the upcoming UNISON National Executive Committee Elections. (NEC)

You might be asking why should our branch support Ali? So, here's a bit about me.

I've been a UNISON member for many, many years, during which time I've been a low paid working mum of two and am now a proud Nana of 4 soon to be 5 grandchildren, with caring responsibilities for my own Mum. During that time, I know I've struggled and I've seen the challenges our members are facing in their daily lives.

It all seemed a bit of a mystery when I first got more involved in UNISON - lots of committees and jargon, but I've realised the most important thing is us and our members and that our voices are heard. I've come a long way since I first (nervously) went along to a branch meeting. As my confidence and skills have grown I have gained a range of experience in a number of roles and now have a proven track record as a Lead Activist at a Local Branch, Regional and National Level.

I'd like to tell you some more about my experiences and roles to help you make your minds up about whether I am the candidate your branch would like to nominate for the Female NEC seat:

I'm Branch Secretary of Torbay UNISON Health. We work hard as a branch team to make sure all our members are supported when they need it. My Branch Secretary role would be impossible without the support and dedication of the branch committee, officers and our members. Being a predominately female led branch I believe empowers our female members to come forward to do an excellent job for all our members. I've worked hard to support our reps and officers to develop a mentoring programme to equip them with the skills and support they need, to do the very best we can for our members.

I am also Staff Side Chair and enjoying working with our other trade unions to negotiate the best terms and conditions. It's a demanding but rewarding role providing me with the opportunity to challenge inequalities, unfairness and poor employment practices when needed.

As part of the SW Regional Convenor team (reps who lead our region) and Chair of Developing and Organising Committee for the region I have had the opportunity to broaden my knowledge of all sectors, meeting with reps from lots of different workplaces across public and private sector. My key role on these committees is making sure that our South West branches get the help, resources and support they need, especially struggling branches. For me, we must remain focused on our members and not lose sight of the important issues for them, wherever they work. Our members are the beating heart of our union.

Every member is important, I've seen first-hand over the years just how often women's voices are not heard in workplaces or on committees. All too often women's issues are not on the agenda. This is why I am standing for this seat - to be part of helping make sure everyone's voice is heard and the right issues and are on the right agendas.

I'm not an expert but I care and will do my best, every time.

I learn something new every day in my roles and there is never a dull moment. My drive will be focused on the following for the next year, recruiting members which will then of course support the growth of our Union which is the largest Union in the United Kingdom. It makes me really proud that we are the largest union! Representing members and supporting the following, Self-Organisation, Equalities and Learning Agendas which helps support and develop the most important people in our union OUR MEMBERS.

Lastly, I would really welcome the opportunity to work with UNISONS newly elected General Secretary Christina McAnea if elected to the NEC on the many challenges we face as a union in the future such as protecting all our public services, the right to a decent pension and retirement at an age where we can enjoy time to do the things we want to, tackling the challenges that the Covid Pandemic brings and the impact it will have on the economy and our lives for many years to come.

I am definitely up for the fight on behalf of all UNISON Members. Please nominate me and let me be your voice.

In this election I am supporting Mark Wareham (South West Region, Male Seat) and I am asking that if you decide to support my request for nomination that you will also consider nominating Mark as well.

Thanks for your time and please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.  
Ali Evans.

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