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To all branches.

NEC Elections
Nomination for National Young Members General Seat
Membership Number: 21082394

I am writing to your branch to seek your nomination and support in the UNISON NEC elections to be your National Young Members representative in the General Seat. I am currently the Northern representative on the Young Members Forum and serve on the Young Labour national committee representing our trade union where I ensure our young workers voices and values are being heard in policy making.

As a proud Geordie and Northern region activist I have seen at first hand the damage that this government has imposed on our communities and what we achieve as a collective force when we are united in bringing about real change.

The reality is that amidst a pandemic, we are being governed via one self-induced crisis after another. Years of neglect and privatisation have exacerbated the impact of the pandemic for the very key workers we clapped for week in, week out – from shortages of personal protective equipment to the crisis in care homes to a lack of nurses; from a shortage of COVID testing for our members to an entire system run for profit over the welfare of our communities. As we now enter a second decade into this governments rule, we now see a growing number of young workers who have only known pay cuts and caps, privatisation and an absence of investment in their places of work.

As your NEC representative, I will stand up to this government's destruction of our environment and their increasing privatisation of public services, fighting for a fully funded NHS with all decision making in our hands. I will also fight for energetic campaigns for our young members coming out of this COVID-19 crisis, who have been on the frontline and will suffer disproportionately coming out of it. I believe our branches now more than ever need more support to cope with the ever growing demands of this COVID-19 crisis and as your representative would lead on programmes to encourage our members in becoming more engaged in their branch, from encouraging more young stewards to be trained up to leading on political educational training targeted at our young members. It would be a priority of mine to encourage a mass recruitment drive of young members across our union, as now

more than ever young people need to be educated on the importance of having a voice at work.

In recent times it is the members in our movement have led the way on fighting for real change across our communities. From the climate protests to standing up against institutional racism, pioneering Black Lives Matter protests to forcing continuing government U-turns and fighting the growing marketisation of our education system – it is UNISON young campaigners have been at the forefront of this organising. As your representative on the NEC I will ensure we galvanise this energy into collaborating with leaders of these campaigns into our work. I will ensure the creation of political workshops on education around the benefits of young people joining a union and encourage involvement of the liberation groups in everything I do. As your representative I will be an open and transparent voice for our young members, standing up for UNISON's core values of democracy, liberation, international solidarity and equality. As a Regional Ambassador for the Holocaust Educational Trust I am a proud anti-racist campaigner and as your representative would seek to collaborate with organisations that fight to defeat racism in our workplaces and across our regions and nations.

Living in very politically polarising times we must remain vigilant against the rise of the far right. As your elected representative I will make it a personal priority to engage and work collaboratively with our sister unions internationally supporting their work to combat the rise of fascism and extremism in our politics at home and abroad in solidarity.

As your elected NEC representative, I will hold our elected representatives to account. It is clear from recent history that when young people are engaged and vote in our democratic processes, we have the opportunity to make political earthquakes and make our agenda clear. Entering our second year enduring this pandemic we need to make sure young people do not pay the price for our government's failures.

From the student nurse to the young local government employee, our workers need a dynamic and campaigning representative that will be visible, transparent and most importantly accountable to our mass movement and growing membership. I am standing to be that voice.

I would also be delighted to come along to your branch meeting to further discuss my plans as your voice on the NEC, so please get in touch by emailing jamielouis00@hotmail.co.uk or contacting me at 07845717917.

In comradeship,

Jamie Dickinson