

Please nominate:
Lilly Boulby - NEC Young Members (Female)
Kiera Hilder - NEC Young Members (General)

Dear branch secretary

Please nominate Lilly Boulby and Kiera Hilder for the Young Members Female and General NEC seats!

We are writing to ask for your branch's nomination for the **Young Members Female and General seats** in the upcoming NEC elections for 2021-22.

The nomination period runs from 1st February – 5th March. Quorate branch meetings held between these dates are eligible to nominate for the NEC elections. Please note that nominations at meetings outside these dates will **not** be accepted. Nominations must be submitted through the CES online portal, details of which will be emailed to your branch. You must invite your Regional Organiser to attend your branch nominating meeting if your nominations are to be valid.

STOP PRESS!

From Keelan Kellegher, who writes: "I was planning to stand in the NEC elections as a Young Member but have found out subsequently I am not eligible to be a candidate. I am therefore withdrawing my candidacy and wholeheartedly give my backing and warm wishes to **Kiera Hilder**, who will now stand in the Young Members General seat. Please give her your support! Thanks, Keelan"

Candidate info

NEC Constituency: Young Members

Name of Seat: Female seat

Name of candidate: **Lilly Boulby**

Membership number: 21414127



I am seeking your nomination for the National Young Members (Female) seat on UNISON'S NEC.

I have worked alongside my studies since I was 17, working in retail, fast food, hospitality, and most recently in the NHS. I am relatively new to the union but I am an active socialist and Labour party member and I am experienced in fighting for what I believe in. I have taken part in demonstrations supporting the Climate Strikes, the Orgreave Truth and Justice Campaign, and protesting the Conservative Party Conference, amongst others. I have spoken at Labour Party conference fringe meetings in favour of public ownership.

Over the past 3 years I have stood in solidarity on the picket lines with my lecturers and administrative staff during the recent UCU strikes by; speaking at rallies in support of staff and against the marketisation of education, interviewing lecturers about their working conditions, and linking up student societies with the struggles of workers on campus.

Declining working and living conditions, precarious contracts, and attacks on pensions are of course not unique to the education sector; workers throughout Britain in all sectors are faced with an increasingly uncertain and precarious

future.

Young workers particularly are exploited with zero hour contracts and discriminatory pay banding. It is the job of UNISON and its officials to bring the fight to the bosses. There can be no business as usual in times like these - UNISON can recruit young workers to the union, but to do so it's got to stand shoulder to shoulder with them and show them that they can fight back.

If I'm elected to the NEC I will advocate for young members at every opportunity and make myself accountable to members. I will draft a bulletin informing all young members of what I've raised at the NEC with Kiera and hold caucuses so that young members can directly raise their concerns. What all members of UNISON really need is a fighting leadership to improve their working and living conditions, not free diaries or desktop calendars!

Candidate info

NEC Constituency: Young Members

Name of Seat: General seat

Name of candidate: **Kiera Hilder**

Membership number: 21443448



I am writing to ask for your branch's nomination for the Young Members General seat in the upcoming NEC elections for 2021-23.

I was born and grew up in Horsham in the south of England. I work as a Child & Family Worker for my local council, supporting qualified social workers. The work is tough and the workloads are crazy right now. Austerity has hit councils so hard, and young workers are bearing the brunt as much as anyone. My local authority's children's social work is currently under 'notice to improve' by OFSTED. This shows just how bad the impact of austerity can be when our most vulnerable children and families are put at needless risk due to dysfunction caused by chronic underfunding.

I love the direct work I do with children, young people and families – but I do not love the long hours or the stress. We do more and more of the tasks that really should belong with social workers but fall to us due to lack of qualified staff. It's not uncommon for me to be working late into the evenings and at the weekends. This should not have to happen to anyone, still less young people! We have a life to lead and should not be expected to prop up local services due to chronic government negligence and underfunding.

UNISON needs a more powerful voice so we can end austerity once and for all. I believe we need major change in our union though to achieve that. Why do we not have more influence for young people when we have 1.4million members and are told we are 'the biggest and the best'?

I left home at 19 to take up employment in another part of the country. I am now back at home, living with my parents as the cost of living is so high it is impossible for me to think, like most young people, about owning my own home. I will need to earn £35,000 a year before my local shared ownership scheme will even consider me. I am a long, long way off that – and unless UNISON is radically reorganised so we can win substantial pay rises, I'll never get there.

If elected I will push our union on its housing campaigning. I will also push for a tougher approach on our education campaigning. I could not even consider

university education with that cost and debt. UNISON must get full square behind campaigns to abolish student fees and abolish student debt. If we want to attract more young members, we need UNISON to fight our corner on the issues that matter to us.

What we stand for

We are standing in this NEC election with other like-minded candidates on a platform of **radical change** for UNISON:

- UNISON is the biggest union in the UK but most people wouldn't know that. We need to 'act our size' and 'fight our weight'; We need a leadership that fights for young members.
Three-quarters of UNISON subscriptions go to the national and regional offices. We must change the proportion of subs that go to branches from the current 25% to 50%;
 - For **nationally coordinated action** on pay so UNISON mounts a serious pay campaign, starting with a £15 per hour minimum wage in all claims;
 - For fighting to end age discrimination - abolish the age differential and fight for a living wage for all workers
 - For linking up and supporting members in struggle, backing industrial action each time members want it;
 - For the active encouragement of coordination and joint-working between branches - and reaching out to our fellow workers in other unions;
 - For the union having the back of all activists in struggle with their employer, offering full support and solidarity each and every time;
 - For a properly funded plan to bring in full negotiating rights at all employers;
 - For greater resourcing and focus by our union on Covid-19, with support to branches, so we can lead the national fight for and protect the public service workers who have sacrificed so much;
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- For a large-scale anti-austerity programme and campaign for decent jobs, training and affordable housing;
- To fight with real action against the scourges of racism, homophobia, disability discrimination and sexism;
- For a green agenda in the union, reviewing all UNISON's practices which impact negatively on the environment;
- For the election of all full time officials in UNISON, in particular Regional Secretaries and Assistant General Secretaries. Too many of the decisions about our union that should be made by lay members are made by paid staff. We need an overhaul of democracy in UNISON. All officials should be on the wage of the workers that they represent.

A fighting NEC

We stand for a strong fighting NEC to lead UNISON. We are proud to have actively supported #TheMembersCandidate **Paul Holmes** in the general secretary election. Lilly was heavily involved in Paul's social media campaign that was vital to reaching our members across the country during the pandemic. Paul's campaign energised our union's grassroots activists like no other campaign before it and if elected we will bring that same energy into the NEC as well as the campaign's objectives to transform our union

In solidarity

Lilly Boulby and Kiera Hilder

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Mem# 21414127 and #21443448



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