

UNISON SPECIAL CONFERENCE, JUNE 2021

Submitting motions for themed debates

In addition to the debate on Branch Resources Review there will be two themed debates - one on the impact of Covid and one on securing a decent post pandemic settlement across the UK.

Branches and other submitting bodies are asked to read the short descriptions of each of the themes before drafting and agreeing their motions.

1. The Branch Resources Review

In 2019 Conference in passing motion 126 set up not only a two year focussed review into Branch Resources but also a group of twenty four lay members from the NEC and Regions to conduct it. The review in general has been running since 2011 and Conference asked for a specific report back in 2021. The review group has been consulting widely and has made fourteen recommendations as a package of measures to support branch activists further.

The NEC, on behalf of the review group, will be bringing the report and the recommendations in the form of a motion to Conference for delegates to debate

2. The Impact of Covid 19 on UNISON members, public services and working life

This debate will provide an opportunity for delegates to share their experiences, reflect on lessons learned and set out evidence that can be submitted to a public inquiry into the pandemic.

This should focus on one or more of the following areas:

- (i) the extent to which a decade of austerity had an impact on the ability of public services to respond to the crisis;
- (ii) health and safety in the workplaces in the context of Covid – from the front line to home working. This can include vaccination policy and issues related to workplace testing;
- (iii) the structural inequalities highlighted by the pandemic
- (iv) the comparison of responses across the nations and regions;
- (v) union resilience - how workplace organisation and the wider union held up;
- (vi) the global impact of the pandemic, including access to PPE and medicines and IPR for vaccines.

Actions should relate to how the union takes forward the lessons learned, the campaign for a public inquiry and the terms of reference for such an inquiry.

3. Securing an equal and sustainable post pandemic settlement

This debate will provide an opportunity for delegates to set out what they think the priority post Covid campaigns are for UNISON, to ensure that there is no going back to the structural inequalities, underinvestment in public services and poor employment practices that resulted in the UK being amongst the very worst hit countries in terms of deaths and economic impact.

This should focus on one or more of the following areas:

- (i) securing increased investment to improve all public services right across the UK;
- (ii) the conditions necessary to secure improvements in pay;
- (iii) decent and secure jobs across all sectors in which the union organises;
- (iv) the key importance of public services and public service workers to stimulate and ensure a healthy economy
- (v) measures needed to bring about a fair and equal society – domestically and internationally
- (vi) the replacement of broken and fragmented social care provision with a new national care service;
- (vii) the creations of a green and sustainable economy;
- (viii) well organised workplaces, a fairer labour market and overhaul of employment and trade union rights.

Actions should focus on the policies that will achieve these outcomes, how the union campaigns in pursuit of them and how this will involve UNISON working together with allies in the labour and trade union movement domestically and internationally.