

## **Barnet UNISON Wishes All Our Members Good Mental Health in the Festive Season**

We hope our members are able to have the break they deserve. We hope that members who are working over the Christmas and New Year are treated well and that the work is not too demanding.

2024 will bring new consultations on pay for most of our members. We think UNISON members are fantastic and deserve a decent (above inflation) pay rise. So, we look forward to consulting with you on this and other matters in the coming months.

Please look after yourself and look out for other colleagues. See articles below for 2 very important dates to show the strikers involved in Barnet UNISON's longest dispute your support.

See here for contact information for yourself or someone you know if need arises:



**Barnet UNISON**

  
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020 8359 2088  
contactus@barnetunison.org.uk  
www.barnetunison.me.uk/wp/  
facebook.com/BarnetUNISON  
twitter.com/barnet\_unison

### Coping at Christmas


Christmas can be tough. It is important to know there's always someone you can talk to.

<b>MIND</b> 0300 123 3393 Helpline mind.org.uk	<b>SHOUT</b> Text SHOUT to 85258 24/7 text service giveusashout.org	<b>SAMARITANS</b> 116 123 24/7 helpline samaritans.org
<b>YOUNG MINDS</b> Text YM to 85258 24/7 text service youngminds.org.uk	<b>CALM</b> 0800 58 58 58 Helpline for men thecalmzone.net	<b>PAPYRUS</b> 0800 068 4141 Under 35s Helpline papyrus-uk.org

## **Solidarity Fundraiser for Mental Health social work strikers**

# STRIKE FUNDRAISER!

## IN SOLIDARITY WITH BARNET MENTAL HEALTH WORKERS



**FRIDAY 12 JANUARY**  
**6:30-11PM**  
**PELICAN HOUSE,**  
**144 CAMBRIDGE HEATH**  
**ROAD, LONDON E1 5QJ**

**ORGANISED BY UNISON YOUNG**  
**MEMBERS IN GREATER**  
**LONDON**

I want to give a big thanks to UNISON Young Members – Greater London Region for organising a “Strike Fundraiser for Barnet Mental Health Workers!” It is truly both humbling and inspiring that our UNISON Young Members are prepared to take the time to organise this event. (John Burgess Branch Secretary Barnet UNISON).

Please click on link to register.

<https://www.outsavvy.com/event/17466/strike-fundraiser-for-barnet-mental-health-workers>

**Read about details below.**

Our comrades, the Mental Health Workers at Barnet Council, have been on strike over poor pay and dangerous working conditions that put the lives of the people they care for at risk. There were also new colleagues who wanted to join the strike but council management has blocked members from taking action. We commend our brave comrades and Unison Young Members – Greater London Region are hosting this fundraiser to support them whilst on strike.

Join us at Pelican House, 144 Cambridge Heath Road and expect some great music with live DJ's, a raffle and some cheap food and drinks. Event kicks off at 6:30pm until 11pm. Let's party and dance in solidarity with the brave strikers! 🕺🕺🕺

Tickets are £7 advance and £10 at the door.  
Striking workers go free! ALL funds going to directly to strike relief fund.

The event space has level access. There is a gender neutral accessible bathroom available for use directly next to the event space which does not require a radar key.

There is no parking at the event space, the nearest Blue Badge parking is on Parmiter Street, approximately 965 metres away, where there are 2 on street bays, with a 3hr maximum. We can open the gate to let a car through with advance notice, but it is not normally possible to park a car there for the duration of an event.

Hasta la victoria siempre!!

Organised By UNISON Young Members – Greater London Region

Organiser of Strike Fundraiser for Barnet Mental Health Workers!

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**Solidarity Mass lobby Tuesday 30 January 6 pm**  
**Hendon Town Hall**

## **Barnet UNISON is calling for solidarity at our Mass Lobby of Barnet Council**



**Tuesday 30 January 2024  
6-7.30 pm Hendon Town  
Hall, The Burroughs,  
London NW4 4BG**

**Support our Mental Health social worker strikers**

### **Barnet UNISON Annual General Meeting**

#### **BARNET UNISON ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**



**THIS IS A HYBRID MEETING SO  
YOU CAN CHOOSE TO JOIN  
ONLINE VIA ZOOM OR ATTEND  
IN PERSON (CONFERENCE  
ROOMS IN COLINDALE OFFICE  
NW9 4EW.**

**WEDNESDAY 28TH FEBRUARY AT 4PM**

*Wednesday 28th February 4pm is the date of our Annual General Meeting 2024.*

*This meeting is critical. If we do not have enough members at the meeting, we cannot pass the business we need to in order for our branch to continue under UNISON's rules.*

*Please put this date in your diary and commit to attending it now. You do not want to be in a position where you need support from the union but for the lack of 1.5hrs of your time, we could not be there for you!*

*Guest speakers are to be confirmed.*

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## **Government should focus on fixing social care, not playing politics with people's lives**

### **Higher pay needed to boost workforce**

Commenting on the annual report by the Migration Advisory Committee published today (Wednesday) calling for wage hikes for low-paid care workers, UNISON general secretary Christina McAnea said:

“The care sector is a lifeline for so many people. Yet there’s still no plan to fix social care, more than four years after a Conservative prime minister said he had one.

“The government seems intent on worsening the crisis by playing politics with migrant workers’ lives, rather than tackling record vacancies.

“Care work is highly skilled. The sector needs a long-term funding plan that significantly boosts wages and offers a career path with training.

“A national care service would be the best way to help millions of families who need this vital support.”

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### **Blog: Reflecting on a week at COP28 in Dubai**

Tony Wright, chair of UNISON’s policy development and campaign committee, attended the COP28 as part of the International Trade Union Confederation delegation



Tony Wright (pictured) is a member of the ITUC delegation attending COP28 in Dubai, and had the opportunity to witness both the achievements and concerns from a trade union perspective during the first week of the conference. Here he reflects on the first week at the conference.

### **Just transition**

One of the significant achievements during the first week of COP28 in Dubai, was the acknowledgment of the importance of a just transition to a low-carbon economy. Recognition of the rights and needs of workers and affected communities in the transition process is crucial.

In daily negotiations I have advocated for the inclusion of just transition measures in the final agreement. This would ensure that workers are not left behind. We will know more on whether our attempts have been successful at the end of this year's COP negotiations in a few days' time.

### **Engagement with trade unions**

COP28 has witnessed a notable level of engagement with trade unions in the decision-making process, though there is definitely room for improvement here in future.

Trade unionist presence in various working groups and consultations has allowed us to contribute our expertise and ensure that labour issues are given due consideration, and the recognition of the role of trade unions in addressing climate change is a positive step towards a more inclusive and effective response.

### **Strengthened solidarity**

The first week of COP28 saw trade unions from different countries and sectors coming together to share experiences and strategies. Solidarity among unions and their federations from across the globe has grown. This has led to fruitful collaborations and the exchange of best practices. This unity has amplified our voice and enhanced our ability to influence climate policies and actions.

### **Insufficient funding and ambition**

In spite of the positives listed above, I am concerned about a lack of ambition for nationally determined contributions, the measures that individual countries are prepared to take to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and achieve the goals of the Paris Agreement and limit global warming to 1.5 degrees celsius. I'm also concerned that there are insufficient financial resources allocated to support workers and communities in the transition to a sustainable economy.

Trade unions at the conference have called for increased funding and investment in reskilling, job creation, and social protection measures to ensure a fair and equitable transition for all workers.

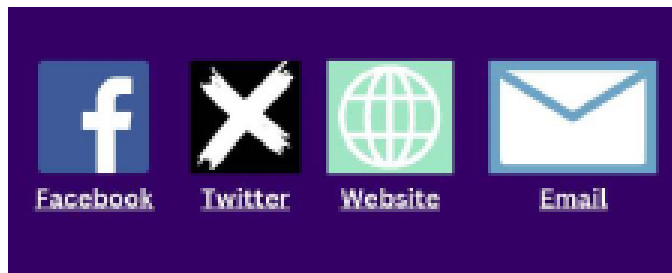
Finally, there appears to be a lack of gendered perspectives and the recognition of the disproportionate impact of climate change on marginalised groups. There are also uncertainties around the position of countries that rely upon fossil fuels such as the COP28 host the UAE.

As we move into the second week of COP28, trade unions have made significant strides in promoting just transition, securing increased engagement, and fostering collaboration.

With a newly formed policy sub group focusing specifically on this area, UNISON remains fully committed to working towards a climate-resilient world that prioritises workers' rights and the wellbeing of communities.

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