

## The TUC Backs Stand Up To Racism

At the TUC (Trade Union Congress) Conference, **Christina McAnea**, **general secretary of UNISON**, introduced a motion titled, “Challenging the politics of hate.” The motion expressed deep concern about the success of Reform UK and the recent far right riots that “**represent the biggest uptick of fascistic activity in a decade**”.



The motion which calls for the trade unions to “mobilise for demonstrations and campaigns against the far right called by Stand Up To Racism” (SUTR) was carried.

**UNISON president Steve North** pointed the finger at mainstream politicians at the SUTR speak-out. “It is mainstream politicians that whipped up a hostile environment that are equally to blame. **“We need to take on any politician that doesn’t stand up for migrants, refugees and the working class.”**”



“The far right offers no solution for working class people. Trade unions must stand against them and offer hope,” he said.

**Daniel Kebede, NEU (National Education Union) general secretary**, also placed demands on Keir Starmer, saying, “We don’t want the prime minister to tail end the anti-migrant rhetoric of city boy Nigel Farage. He needs to put forward a positive vision that refugees and migrants are welcome.

**“There are pools of bitterness fuelled by neoliberalism where the social fabric has been chipped away. We need to break with the consensus of extracting wealth from communities to line the pockets of the rich.”**

Kebede argued that, unless there is “a complete break” from this, Nigel Farage and Tommy Robinson “will only get more powerful”. “The prime minister needs to take on racism but also invest in our communities,” he said.

**This is why all the trade unions are backing this event tomorrow, (Thursday 26 September):**

[Click here to read further](#)

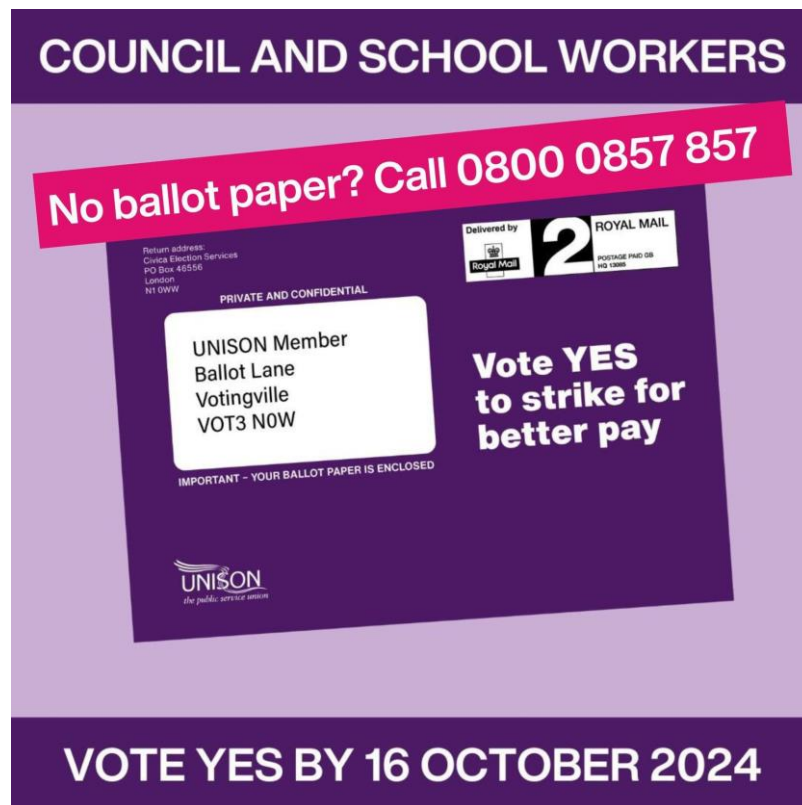
**and why there is a call for all trade unionists to join the Stand Up To Racism counter protest this Saturday (28<sup>th</sup> September) at midday in Trafalgar Square.**

[Click here to read further](#)

**...And this is why the vote in UNISON’s National Pay Ballot matters – this is how we break with the consensus of extracting wealth from communities to line the pockets of the rich!**

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## No Purple Pay Ballot Envelope? Update on Ordering a Replacement



Feedback from some of our members is that the online method of ordering a replacement is not working if you cannot remember/ don't have a password for getting into your account. This will apply to vast majority of members.

Instead, we're asking our members who haven't received a ballot paper to **ring the national number: 0800 0857 857.**

**This hotline is open weekdays 6am – midnight and Saturdays 9am – 4pm.** We recommend phoning outside of peak times.

The branch is not able to order or send out replacement ballot papers.

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## OCTOBER – MENTAL HEALTH MONTH



October brings us **Mental Health Awareness month**. This year's theme set by the World Federation of Mental Health is, **“it's time to prioritise mental health in the workplace”**. The theme highlights the importance of addressing mental health and wellbeing in the workplace, for the benefit of individuals, organisations, and communities.

**World Mental Health Day on the 10<sup>th</sup> of October 2024.** It's crucial to shine a light on one of the most pressing issues affecting modern workplaces: [burnout](#). In our fast-paced world, more employees are experiencing a level of chronic stress that leads to burnout.

**If you are struggling with your mental health, there is support available with Able Futures.**

[Click here to access the Able Futures contact webpage](#)

If you would prefer to call Able Futures here is the telephone number  
Tel: **0300 456 8114**

## What is Able Futures?

- Able Futures provides **nine months of confidential, no-cost** support from **mental health professionals** to help employees manage conditions such as anxiety, depression, or stress while maintaining work performance.
- The service offers **resilience-building support** rather than counselling, with no need for a doctor's referral or waiting list – Access their support within 30 days of making your referral!
- Participants are paired with a **qualified Mental Health Coach (MHC)**, who may be a member of the British Association for Counselling and Psychotherapy or trained in related fields, offering practical guidance and support across England, Scotland, and Wales.
- Support extends to employee partners and family members aged 16+ in various employment situations.
- The service complements existing wellbeing strategies, with referrals to additional resources like Employee Assistance Programmes or counselling/therapies if needed.
- Able Futures is funded by the Department of Work and Pensions and delivered by Ingeus to support employee mental health.
- 24/7 access to their brand new wellbeing platform "ELE"
- Neurodiversity Screening Tool access where appropriate
- Personalised 1-on-1 support tailored to your needs
- 100% confidential and secure

Already have an Employee Assistant Programme? Able Futures offers a different approach with longer-term, less intrusive support, focusing on building a healthier future. They can work alongside your current mental health provider effortlessly, and at no additional cost to you.

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## Barnet UNISON Branch Executive Votes to Support Striking Workers



Yesterday Barnet UNISON Branch Executive heard from **Claire Miller, a worker in the Manchester Mental Health team** which has taken inspiration from our mental health social worker strike and has decided to take strike action demanding safer staffing levels.

She described a service in crisis with staff routinely breaking down in tears at work due to their own stress levels caused by the high demand and not enough staff to cope.

We voted to support them by donating £200 once they take the strike action planned later next month.

We also agreed to donate £100 to the strikers taking action against redundancies in **Mulgrave Primary School in Greenwich**: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cq6rer6eg52o>

And we agreed £100 to donate to the **Lewisham and Greenwich Trust Health Care Assistants** taking strike action to win a regrading: <https://www.nursingtimes.net/news/workforce/first-london-hcas-join-campaign-to-demand-up-banding-04-09-2024/>

These are just some of the strikes currently taking place involving UNISON members.



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