

Report Women's Conference 2024 Samantha Harker

Women's conference was informative and the Annual report was passed for 2023, including a focus on motions relating to current agenda items of relevance politically for Unison and women members.

A motion that was particularly informative was Motion 34. Year of LGBT+ workers - Let's embed LGBTQ+ equality in our union. This year is the year of LGBTQ+ workers and the motion highlighted the need for promoting equality of opportunity for LGBTQ+ women at all levels in the union.

I attended a Trans Allyship training fringe event. This was insightful and informative. I learnt about trans allyship, and the challenges trans women face in the workplace and trans colleagues generally.

Observations

I also fed back that the quiet space facility for conference attendees could be published in the conference guide. The guide merely pointed out for delegates to ask at the Conference desk for its location. As a delegate who is neurodivergent, I viewed this was a little too intrusive and for me made me reluctant to ask where the facility was.

I attended the social and made connections with other attendees. Sadly, I didn't get any photos of the evening's full event, due to attending partway through the evening.

I had a dialogue with East Mids. regional rep Emma and had a conversation about gaining data on neurodivergent lived experience for union members e.g. a poll to clarify if access needs and establish any 'barriers'. E.g. a disabled worker commented at the Caucus group how online platforms pose a barrier due to her visual access needs. I think this work would be good to do at our branch to clarify who out of our membership identifies as disabled to get insight of their access needs and insight on how best such needs can be accommodated. I think this intelligence would be helpful for steward representation and for Unison internally to enable members to participate meaningfully in Unison events in branch and more widely.