

Statements for candidates who want to represent LGBTI+ members at National Equality Conference (you can vote for 1 person)

Emily Brothers

"I would welcome the opportunity to represent LGBT+ people at GMB's National Equality Conference, particularly giving an empowering voice to the rights of trans people.

I currently serve on GMB's national strand group for trans and non-binary members and have attended previous LGBT+ and trans members conferences and GMB Congress, so offer good experience in advocating for the rights of LGBT+ workers.

With lived experience of disability and being a trans woman, I bring a thorough understanding of those strands and intersectionality. I have worked previously for both Disability rights commission and Equality and Human Rights commission, so able to draw on a breadth of knowledge and Otextperience about best practice, policy development and advocating for people's rights.

Bringing my activism into the room, I want to encourage GMB to challenge the prejudice rising from the culture war and deepening inequality arising from government policy."

Fiona Heneghan

"I have had the honour of a seat on the REF for 5yrs for LGBT+ working with all strands as allies. I also sit on Regional Committee, I am a CEC member, and part of the Taskforce to implement the Monaghan Report recommendations, which highlighted many inequalities across our Union, effecting Members, Staff, Activists.

My commitment to LGBT+ and all strands in my roles is to highlight, challenge, achieve a more inclusive diverse Union. Covid has highlighted wider inequalities effecting all of us hate crimes, discrimination, cuts, have impacted all of us. LGBT+ Members have a range of struggles in the workplace, with health, in their communities.

I hope to continue in my REF role to highlight, challenge & change this. We need to encourage members who identify with LGBT+ and strands to join us through a collective equality campaign Regionally, Nationally."

Izzy Pochin

"I've been an LGBT+ activist for the last four years and worked closely regional and national equality staff, demonstrating passion and commitment for LGBT+ rights and vocal in GMB's priority that trans rights are human rights. A lack of visibility and action is slowing progress on LGBT+ rights.

Legislation that should support our rights and ability to live equally are lagging behind social progress. The Equality Act 2010 does not support intersectional experiences, while the government's failures to reform the Gender Recognition Act 2014 contributes to harmful myths and feeding the hands and pockets of transphobic groups.

I founded an LGBT+ Forum to create meaningful change for LGBT+ equality and sit on the TUC LGBT+ Committee. I am seeking to attend the National Equality Conference to ensure connection and realisation between national and regional work to platform LGBT+ voices and experiences and the advancement of LGBT+ equality through proactive and meaningful change."

Paul Sony

“I've been involved with regional REF for almost 10 years and GMB Southern Shout! since it's relaunched over 7 years ago which I've been involve with and ensuring that GMB Southern Shout! has on average attending about 7 pride events each year and having a present at Tolpuddle and other events.

I've been able to represent GMB on the TUC national LGBTI+ committee and in 2021 I was elected as Chair for the TUC LESE (London, East and Southeast) LGBTI+ Network where I'm already making a difference. Every time I've attended Congress, I have ensured that a voice is given on behalf GMB LGBTI+ members on different motions and been pressing to get funding and better resources (which includes up to date leaflets) for all GMB Self Organised Groups especially LGBTI+ and for Equality surveys to be carried out.

I feel that campaigning for LGBTI+ rights and working with external companies are important.”