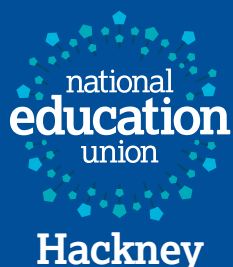




Nominations for National Executive Committee elections 2021-2023



How to contact Hackney NEU

Call us: 0208 985 2056

Fax us: 0208 533 9285

Email us:

david.davies@neu.org.uk

sandra.hall@neu.org.uk

All social media is currently being updated

Write to us: 2nd Floor,

6-15 Florfield Road,

Reading Lane,

London E8 1DT



Nominations for NEC elections 2021-2023

**NEU Executive member
(four posts)**

**Alex Kenny
Jess Edwards
Abdul Choudhury
Kirsty Paton
Kristabelle Williams
James Kerr
Ruth Gibson**



Tower Hamlets & The City NEU

NEU Office
The Shadwell Centre
455 The Highway
London E1W 3HP

Secretary: Alex Kenny

Telephone: 0345 811 8111

e-mail: alex.kenny@neu.org.uk`

NEU Executive Elections 2021-2023

Please nominate Alex Kenny

Dear colleagues,

I am seeking re-election as a member of the NEU executive member, and I am writing to request the support of your District in this.

About me

I am the Tower Hamlets NEU branch secretary and have served as an NUT, and then NEU, Executive member since 2006. I am currently Chair of the NEU *Policy, Research and Campaigns* Committee and I also represent the NEU at the regional executive of the TUC.

As a branch secretary and executive member I have ensured that active campaigning is at the heart of the Union's work. In Executive meetings I have consistently argued for campaigning strategies and then aimed to translate these into activity on the ground.

I am extremely proud that, early in 2020, Tower Hamlets became the first NEU Branch to beat the government thresholds in a ballot across all our schools, for strike action against proposed changes to terms and conditions, which have been withdrawn.

I have played a leading role in developing our campaigns and activity across the London region. I have helped organise numerous events and demonstrations, most recently chairing the meeting with Sadiq Khan, attended by over 3,000 members, and the *London TeachMeet* as a forum for members to share tips and ideas for teaching and learning during lockdown.

Our work on Covid-19

We should be very proud of the work we have done in the last year to support members and the communities we serve. Throughout the pandemic we have shown the benefits of strong networks of local officers and Reps, working together to build the Union's campaigns and win our policy objectives – record numbers of new members and school Reps are testimony to the work we have done.

But we must not let up. The government has lost control of the situation and we must ensure that we continue to support members in the next period of lockdown, both in keeping schools safe and in developing positive approaches to distance teaching and learning.

Support for local Districts

As executive member I have attended local association meetings to speak on a range of issues and I have supported associations and members in schools where disputes have arisen. I have also produced regular bulletins for Districts to adapt for local use.

There are great challenges facing our Union and our profession but I believe the Union is in a very good position to meet them, and to shape the future of education - we will have to continue our work with other unions and parent organisations to do this.

I would ask you to have *nomination for executive members* as an item on the agenda for a general meeting in your District, where I would be happy to attend and answer questions.

Yours faithfully,

Alex Kenny

Lambeth NEU

Blue Star House
Brixton
SW9 9SP

Jess Edwards 07852319488 jessica.edwards@neu.org.uk

Request for executive nomination

Dear colleague,

I am writing to ask if your district would consider nominating me as a candidate for election to the NEU executive for Inner London (District 14).

I am proud to have served on the NEU executive for Inner London for the last 4 years and would be equally proud to continue doing so for the next 2 years if elected. I have also continued to work as a primary teacher in Lambeth during this time.

The union's response to the Covid crisis

The last year has been more than challenging for everyone in the country, not least for students and school staff. I believe the NEU at national and local level has played an excellent role in this crisis, and I have been active in shaping and helping to lead the union's response.

As infection rates spiralled in the run up to the Christmas break, it was obvious to all but the government that something had to be done in schools.

I played a key role in organising the very large meeting called by London Districts during the Christmas holidays. This helped to build confidence and alongside the enormous national NEU meeting at the start of January, helped to force a government U turn and the closure of most schools for most students.

But we cannot let up now... fighting for Nursery and Special Schools

We must fight to stop the government's reckless policy to keep nursery provision and special schools fully open. That is why I have supported colleagues in nurseries and special schools as they have organised in recent weeks and will continue to fight unsafe practice.

Organising at the base of the union

I firmly believe that school level organising, with reps and activists taking charge of shaping the union, is the key to making our union even more effective. We have taken great strides forward in the last year in very challenging circumstances with thousands of new members and new reps who have done brilliant work.

I hope I have played a positive role in encouraging and leading that both locally in Lambeth, across London, and through my role on the NEU executive and on the executive Officers Steering Group which shapes the union's strategic direction and work.

Education in the lockdown

Lockdown is hugely stressful for students, their parents and our members. It is vital that we as a union engage with what our students their families and our members deserve and that we work to support our them where the government has failed.

I will campaign on wider issues such as anti-racism and the Black Lives Matter Movement, and Climate Crisis, but also believe we need to take up issues such as free school meals provision and the provision of laptops and access to broadband. I am also involved in a local initiative we have taken in Lambeth, where I am joint district secretary, to provide union sponsored packs of learning material for children who don't have the basics at home.

I have played a key role over the last year in organising the successful Celebrating Education initiative nationally which has held a series of major events discussing what education could and should look like.

I am now helping this to organise both Celebrating Education events looking at education in the lockdown as well as London wide Teach Meets so that educators can share their ideas around remote learning.

No return to the exam factory

We need to campaign to ensure that when we return fully to school it is to a different kind of education and not the dead regime of SATS, GCSE and A Level which has turned too many schools into soulless exam factories.

We have achieved much, but there is much still to fight. I ask for your nomination and support.

In solidarity,

Jess Edwards



Tower Hamlets & The City NEU

NEU Office
The Shadwell Centre
455 The Highway
London E1W 3HP

Secretary: Alex Kenny

Telephone: 07436564691

e-mail: abdul.choudhury@neu.org.uk

NEU Executive Elections 2021-2023

Please nominate Abdul Choudhury

Dear Colleagues,

I was only just elected onto the NEU executive and it seems strange to be going through the process all over again so soon, however I would very much like to thank those of you who kindly nominated me previously and I hope you will consider nominating me once again.

I was previously ATL branch secretary in Tower Hamlets and in that role, worked very closely with the then NUT in ensuring that we presented a unified position to employers and headteachers.

Since the formation of the NEU I have been elected as our District Assistant Secretary with responsibility for member support.

The Covid-19 crisis has presented us with real challenges as union and I have worked tirelessly to support members, individually and as school groups, in addressing their concerns, organizing Zoom meetings and offering support and guidance.

I am particularly proud of the work I have done on equality and have stood side by side with members facing discriminatory practices and supported them with the full weight of the union.

I am absolutely committed to the aims and values of the National Education Union, particularly our organising agenda to empower members in schools and colleges.

The NEU has done some amazing work during the pandemic, as a result we have recruited record numbers of new members and our public profile has never been higher. It is important that we build on our new found strength and confidence to build campaigns to support members and change the world of education. I think I can make a valuable contribution to that work.

If elected to the Executive, my priorities would be:

- **Developing our organising approach to support and empower reps and members**
- **Making sure our union is inclusive for all members**
- **Increased funding for schools during the Covid pandemic and after**
- **Building campaigns for better pay and reduced workload for teachers and support staff**
- **Campaigning for a better education system for all our children – particularly SEND children**

Yours faithfully,

Abdul Choudhury

Vote Kirstie Paton

For action on school safety and workload

Dear NEU members,

I am writing to you to request your nomination for the National NEU Executive Elections taking place this Spring and to see re-election.

This year has been like no other. Since the virus arrived in the UK last year, we have seen incompetence and negligence and from Johnson and Williamson in their handling of the pandemic. Our death rate stands as the highest per capita globally and this week we reached 100,000 deaths. Our hearts reach out to all those who have lost loved ones.

We been treated appallingly by this government. They have lied to us about the role schools play in community transmission. They claim our schools are 'Covid secure' when they are not because they have failed to make them safe. It was down to our mass action this term, with the use of S44 legislation over Health and Safety, that ensured that we were not forced back into unsafe schools. We have achieved much in the last year, but there is still much to do:

I will campaign for:

Action over school safety - We need a national agreement before any full reopening of schools that protects our 'at risk' staff, students, and families; that ensures social distancing is maintained with no more than 15 in a class; that ensures there are no compromises on test, track, trace and isolate protocols. Ballots at school, district and regional level should be organised to win our demands over school safety.

A national campaign of action on workload - Currently millions of teachers, support staff, pupils and their families are grappling with the new world of online learning; we know how vital supporting our pupils is, but not at the expense of our health and well-being. A campaign for a national contract that places limits on our working week is as relevant now as ever.

End Austerity – fair pay for educators and public sector workers - this Government has so little respect for us, that while they have awarded their friends billion-pound contracts, we are told to accept a pay freeze. The money is there. We need to demand a fair pay claim for all. Fund education and invest in our children's future, end child poverty.

End the testing culture – This pandemic has shown us one important myth about assessment – that exams are the only way to assess students. Abolish Baseline Assessment and SATs. Radically redesign the curriculum and assessment at all levels of education where students' achievements are fully recognised. Abolish Ofsted and League tables. We have managed without them.

Fight racism - Black Lives Matter - Support the rights of refugees and migrants in desperate need of our help.

Greater democracy in our union – On the Executive I have raised the issues that directly affect members in our union, but there is much to do to improve democracy in our union. Strong school groups and a network of reps is key to ensuring that our leadership are accountable to the members.

For more information:

FB: @KirstiePaton4NEUExec

Twitter: @kirstiepaton

Email: kirstie.paton@neu.org.uk

Instagram: [kirstieannepaton](https://www.instagram.com/kirstieannepaton)



NEU Executive Elections 2021 - 2023

Please nominate Kristabelle Williams for Inner London (District 14)



I am writing to you to ask for your District's nomination for the position of NEU Executive Member for Inner London in the forthcoming elections. I would be grateful if you could please include this statement on your meeting agenda item regarding nominations for the election.

About Me

I am a full-time school librarian in a Lewisham secondary school, representing teachers and support staff as an NEU Workplace and Health & Safety Rep, and as a committee member of my local District. I am committed to working for the interests of young people in education and am on the School Library Association's School Librarian of the Year Honour List 2020/21 in recognition of my professional practice. I am proud of helping build a union that represents and is strengthened by all education workers.

Organising in the Union

As a NEU Support Staff National Council Member for London, I have been part of weekly meetings during the pandemic to help inform the union's support and resources for our support staff members. I have started a network for London District Support Staff Officers to share best practice, develop organising and encourage support staff to stand for local, regional and national positions. I am also involved in the growing NEU Librarians' Network and it's successful 'School Libraries in the time of Covid' webinars on remote services and learning. There are now nearly 50,000 support staff members in the NEU because of the great work the union is doing- it is vital we develop the infrastructure, resources, training, policy and leadership needed to meet and coordinate the demands of our expanding membership. I believe that more support staff members actively participating at all levels of the union will help drive this and strengthen our rank and file power.

Covid Crisis

We have seen the power that we do have - the actions that our reps and members have taken, both locally and nationally to stop unsafe wider reopening this term were bold and brave. It was



made possible by the incredible organisation of members on the ground and we must continue to build on this - because educators, including those in Early Years and Special schools, are still being put at risk; workload for teachers and support staff is unsustainable; reps are being victimised for standing up for their members working conditions; and our sensible plans to get through this crisis are being ignored. We need to be prepared to take further action to continue to defend the Health & Safety of our members, students and communities in the face of government incompetence and attacks on our profession.

Funding

Many of our lowest paid staff already badly affected by the crisis will be hit first by restructures, a consequence of the continuing devastating lack of funding for schools and colleges. Rather than cuts, our students need investment in digital technology, mental health support, SEND resources and staffing; support staff need a living wage, statutory sick pay, pay rises and collective bargaining rights to win them; schools need rid of academisation, performance-related pay, Ofsted and endless testing; and we need proper budgets to deliver the education our students deserve.

Community

We must situate this fight in the context of cuts to local and public services, the digital divide, child poverty and systemic inequalities and work with other groups and unions in our communities; as a library campaigner I recognise the strength that we can give each other. Not only can we build on the work we have done, others can too. Please consider supporting me and nominate me for NEU Executive for Inner London.

Nominate James Kerr for NEU NEC Inner London 2021-23

Why I'm standing

I am asking Inner London districts to nominate me to run for one of the four seats for Inner London in the upcoming National Executive Committee elections.

The pandemic has laid bare the problems with education: fragmentation as a result of privatisation, inadequate funding, an outmoded assessment and accountability system and a continuing workload crisis. It also shows the power we have as education workers to change things when we act together. I am a workplace rep, building a union group of teachers and support staff that is at the heart of decision-making in our school. However, school by school action is not enough. I have led on the Lewisham NEU Covid Action Plan, which aims to push our local authority to take a more active role in the managing of health and safety, including workload, in our borough.



This has reinforced my view that the union needs to campaign for a new national contract for teachers and support staff and the funding to match, as the current system is unsustainable.

I have been part of building the London New and Young Educators Network from its foundation and initiated the Lewisham Climate Change Assembly, linking up with the UCU and other unions locally to campaign on air pollution in our borough.

This election gives our members a choice between two types of union: One is a drift towards a professional association type model that relies on political lobbying and the other is for us to use the latent power of nearing half a million members to transform our workplaces and take on the Tories and their privateer friends. I stand for the latter and hope you will allow me to put that vision to members in Inner London by nominating me.

About me

I am a secondary school English teacher in Lewisham and have worked in London schools for over 15 years as a teaching assistant, learning mentor and now a classroom teacher. I have been a workplace rep throughout that time, firstly representing support staff as a Unison member and then build NUT and NEU groups in academies and local authority schools, rapidly increasing membership, turnout to meetings and confidence to stand up to management amongst members.

I have been part of the organizing team around the NEU Ideas Reading Group, interviewing Phil Beadle on his book about Cultural Capital and hosting a session on Red State Revolt with author Eric Blanc and teachers from West Virginia. I have cultivated links with militant school workers around the world, visiting the United Caucuses of Rank and File Educators Conference in Philadelphia in 2019 and reporting back the organizing strategies used to good effect in Los Angeles, Chicago and the Red States.

Request for Nomination for London Executive

Dear colleague,

I am writing to ask if your district would consider nominating me as a candidate for election to the NEU executive for District 14-Inner London.

My background is a primary teacher with over twenty year's experience. Having taught in Birmingham, Derbyshire, and then on supply in South Wales for eight years, I moved to London in September 2009.

I have been very active within the union. As a school rep at Essendine Primary from 2010, I became involved with my local district Westminster. Firstly, as a committee member, then President and was elected District Secretary in 2017 and Branch Secretary in 2019.

I am currently Treasurer for the London Regional Council, on the committee of the Local District and Branch Secretary National Council, which meets several times a year to discuss issues Secretaries encounter; these are then reported back to the Executive. Last year, I was part of the organising committee for the London Regional Weekend and delivered a workshop on Mental Health and Wellbeing in the Workplace.

Covid-19

The current pandemic has highlighted the importance of a strong and united union to protect members' interests. As Division Secretary, I produced information sheets and FAQ guides for members and supported members with covid queries and issues. The NEU has been at the forefront of campaigns to protect not only its members but also children and young adults. Although there appears to be some light on the horizon with the vaccination programme in place, the NEU still has much work to do to ensure the safety of its members. We must continue to campaign to overturn the decision to keep our nursery schools fully open for all pupils. Education staff want to work in a safe environment yet the high numbers of adults required to work in these provisions will contribute to the rise of infections. At Westminster, I am working with nursery school members to improve these unsafe practices.

Union roots

I believe that the success of a union lies with member participation and a strong National Executive. A good rep base across all educational settings and subsequent organisation ensures we can continue to build on our roots and shape the future of education. As an active campaigner, I am studying part time for a diploma in Contemporary Trade Union Studies; a major part of my studies is Industrial Relations, which is relevant to my position as District Secretary and union activities. I also hold a TUC Diploma in Employment Law.

This has been a very challenging year due to covid and our union still faces challenges; funding cuts across all educational sectors, workload issues, hostile publicity from some sections of the press and an anti-union government to name a few. As a proud member of the NEU, I would consider it a privilege to be elected to be a part of the decision making body which shapes and defines the NEU.

Thank you for taking the time to consider my nomination.

Ruth Gibson

Westminster NEU District and Branch Secretary



Nominations for NEC elections 2021-2023

**Equalities seats
(three posts)**

LGBT+ seat:

Kacey De Groot

Black Members (one seat):

Denise Henry

Vik Chechi-Ribeiro

Disabled Members seat:

Colleen Johnson

Kacey de Groot Statement for the re-election to NEU Executive as LGBT+ Seat Holder.

I would like to state my intention, once again, to stand for election for the Equalities seat holder, for LGBT+ members, of the National Education Union. I first put myself forward for this position in October of last year and was appointed unopposed in November. At that time I was well aware that, due to the short period of time I would have in the role, I would need to stand again at this point. Whilst no other candidates ran against me in the previous election, I am not taking that for granted now. I feel that the process of being on the executive is far more clearly understood by me now, and that I still have a great deal to offer LGBT+ members, the union, and the students we teach.

The remainder of my statement below is the same as I have publicised in the previous election. There has been a deeply challenging set of circumstances for educators recently, in the midst of the COVID19 pandemic. I still stand by and reassert all of those aims and objectives and am happy to put these forward, once again, as my statement of intent.

I am a trans woman. But I am also a queer woman. I don't stand purely for Trans and Non-Binary representation in the Union, although I feel, at this point in time, that is vital. I want to ensure that the union upholds its democratic commitment to Trans rights, and also, with consultation from Non-Binary members, recognises the validity of Non-Binary members' identities.

I stand for the acceptance, visibility, representation, and celebration of all LGBT+ Educators. Most of my own lived experience of oppression has centred around my 'transness'. It is part of who I am also though, to look for the 'bigger pictures' in the world. I always want to understand how things operate, and I seek to deal with the roots of problems.

When I apply this approach to the transphobia I face, I can see it is not anything new, modern, or original. Gay, bi and lesbian people have faced similar and almost identical oppressions before. Clause 28 used similar demonisation and fear mongering bringing a legacy that has set back people's opportunities to live fulfilling and authentic lives, free from prejudice, by decades. And still there are protests and organising, thirty years later, against the idea of gay people being seen in books. This has not ended. Rather, it seems to be growing and is often funded from deeply problematic organisations and groups. I stand to fight against this, and to bring more visibility, solidarity, and support for LGBT+ Educators.

Through the outstanding work done by the NEU Black LGBT+ Network, and my links and connections with the Trans community, I have seen how LGB, and Queer, Trans and Intersex People of Colour particularly, have a greatly increased level of discrimination, oppression, poverty, violence and often death. If I am elected, I don't want to speak for those people, and never knowingly over them. I will always push for them to be heard, seen and listened to themselves. As a white person I cannot guarantee I will always get things right. But, I will approach any work done for those members with thought, care, and consultation. And, if I ever make a mistake, I will apologise and listen to the voices of Black Educators to enable me to do that better in the future.

I will look to create, within the existing Equality networks, greater connection and union between Black, Disabled and LGBT+ members. I welcome the intersectional groups that have been created recently, including the mentioned Black LGBT+ Educators, and the Disabled LGBT+ Educators, and whether through networks or events, I want to develop this way of working to grow more members, and more organisers and activists.

I believe passionately in intersectionality and in understanding our identities on an individual basis. I think when we see our complexity and difference as a strength, and as a benefit, we have a far greater chance of creating a better world.

I want to create more opportunities for our union to lead in the world of Education. As more academies, commercially produced curriculums, educational consultants, and 'ThinkTanks' dictate what makes good practice and outcomes, the voices that understand this best, the actual teachers, are being ignored. This. Is. Wrong. Similarly, while large commercial organisations are charging schools high prices for Diversity and Equality Training, a great deal of the expertise and experience is already in classrooms and teaching. If elected, I want to find ways that support our members in creating and sharing their work more widely, and with more connectivity, to more of the union membership, and within more schools.

I have always pushed back against narrow curriculums, focussed on knowledge, written examinations and often too much content. I know how this disadvantages young people from less privileged backgrounds. With my increased understanding of the Black Lives Matter movement I can now also see how these pedagogies come from the process and mechanics of colonisation. I believe that not only racism (overt and structural) but also homophobia, biphobia, sexism, and particularly transphobia are rooted in colonialism. I will work hard to decolonise schools and curricula for the benefit of all students and educators.

Finally I want to build more connections and bridges, through the greater visibility and presence of LGBT+ Educators, to LGBT+ student groups. I want our network to understand how we can grow LGBT+ representation within the teaching profession, (particularly Black and Disabled LGBT+ teachers) by connecting with students.

I am including a link to a podcast in which I appear in because it communicates (I hope) something about my personal story and about how I approach teaching and education. I am very proud of daughter, Dora, who is also in the episode. She steals the show in my opinion!

My experience as a Trans Woman is not the same as a woman who was assigned female at birth, and has always lived as a woman. It is different. But since transitioning I have been able to understand sexism in a real and tangible way. As opposed to a 'privileged' or purely philosophical way. (Which is the way I can understand Racism or Disableism). I am standing as a Woman who wants to fight, as well as for LGBT+ people, for Women. All Women.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p08h0hpx>

Dear District Secretary,



My name is Denise S. Henry, I am a teacher with 20 years' experience and I am seeking your support to become the next Black Constituency Seat holder on the National Executive. I have been nominated by my district Lambeth NEU. I would welcome the opportunity to attend your next district meeting to talk to your members, listen and answer their questions but also share my vision for Black Members during and post-COVID.

I am the Equalities Officer and NEU school representative for Lambeth NEU and I have been a committee member for my district for the last 13 years. In 2018 I was elected as the first black woman to be a member of the LGBT+ National organising forum and in 2020 I became the first black woman to be elected as vice- chair for the forum as well, in its long history. I was also awarded an award for outstanding intersectionality work at the last Black Educators Conference in 2020. I have been nominated as NEU Black Educators Conference steering committee for many conferences and led workshops and co-chaired parts of the conferences. I have a strong track record of organising and representing Black members in our union at School, District, Regional and National level. I have been a Middle Leader in a Primary school for a number of years, and led on different subjects and equality areas, I have consistently been an active trade unionist. As the Network leader of the NEU Black LGBT+ network (which won the award for most inspiring intersectionality network in 2019 at the LGBT+ conference) and I am also the co- founder of the NEU South –East London network. I work effectively with NEU Black Organising Forum and many grassroots organisations. I continue to support fellow members, mobilise local, regional and national networks, in addition to representing the union at different black and LGBT+ events and TUC conferences. I have sought to inspire members to be more involved in the union and have organised union different engagement events. I have regularly spoken at Annual Conference supporting Equalities motions and If elected I would like to build on the foundations of some of our inspirational, innovative and pioneering black trade unionists like Baljeet Ghale, Roger King, Betty Joseph and our new Senior Vice President, Daniel Kebede.

Now more than at any other time in our history, black members need and demand a strong, committed voice within our executive, a strong voice to fight for the survival of Black

Educators, as a self-organising section within our union, within education as a whole. For years we have battled against racism and discrimination in the workplace, we have battled for fair and positive recruitment and retention practices and progression into senior leadership positions. We have also battled to protect our lives in our roles during this worldwide pandemic. As we all know the threat is real but we have also learnt that it is only through unity, mobilising our workforce and collective bargaining that we - the NEU- is a force to be reckoned with.

My motto - no Black members will be left behind! We have a wealth of experience and skills and I will help to inspire Black members to reach their full potential.

I would welcome the opportunity to attend your next district meeting to talk to members, listen and answer their questions but also to share my vision for Black Members going forward during and post-COVID.

I look forward to meeting your membership in the near future and I hope to gain their support.

Email: denise.henry@neu.org.uk

Kind regards,
Denise S. Henry

Re-elect Vik Chechi-Ribeiro – Black member representative on the National Executive.

After winning the December by-election for the Black member seat on the National Executive, I am standing for re-election for the full 2-year term, asking for your district's nomination and the opportunity to speak at a members' meeting. I am running to continue what I have started - a radical platform of rank-and-file organising, uniting workplace & community struggles and socialist political education. Our programme for this year includes organising events, rep training and reading groups on Prevent, no police in schools, decolonising the curriculum, housing, exclusions, anti-imperialism and other issues.

I have a strong track record of campaigning and organising in our union at school, multi-academy trusts and national level. In 2019/20 I was awarded 'Best new activist' at the Black Educators Conference and 'Rep of the year' for the North West region. I had the honour of chairing the NEU Black lives matter solidarity event that was viewed by over 20,000 people and featured the Reverend Jesse Jackson Snr and Diane Abbott.

If re-elected my priorities would be to continue:

- Being a strong voice on the National Executive for transformative and radical change.
- Uniting workplace and community issues such as the school to prison pipeline, decolonising the curriculum, child poverty and housing
- Building a rank and file movement through 'deep organising' by developing our black members into leaders in their workplaces and communities.
- Organising the unorganised by unionising and developing the workplace power of agency and supply members and campaigning against exploitative outsourcing companies.
- Develop a programme of socialist political education for black members on racism, capitalism and anti-imperialism
- Building a global anti-imperialist black member trade union section – learning from struggles in countries such as Venezuela, Cuba, Palestine, Bolivia, Nigeria and India.
- Commitment to a vibrant and inclusive Black educators conference that showcases the best organising of our movement.
- Develop the capacity of organising forums to campaign in the workplace and community.
- To show solidarity, acknowledge the intersectionality and build strong partnerships with LGBT+ and disabled members organising forums and members.

It would therefore be an honour to receive your district's nomination. I will be a strong voice for black members and empower ourselves to collectively lead the transformational change in our education system and society.

If you want to get in touch and invite me to speak at your district meeting or organising forum please let me know. You can contact me on:

Twitter: @vikcr86 Email: vikchechi1986@gmail.com Facebook: fb.me/voteVCR



Please nominate Colleen Johnson for

The Equality Constituency Seat: Disability



Originally from Middlesbrough, I have spent more than thirty years as a primary teacher, in both Birmingham and Worcester

Dedicated to equality, I worked for The Multicultural Development Unit for more than nine years.

Active within our union, previously as school rep then an equality officer for Birmingham NEU, I am now part of Worcestershire NEU Committee and in school on a regular basis.

Formerly a member of the working party and vice chair of the advisory group, I am now chair of the NEU Disabled Members Organising Forum.

I have led the NEU Disabled Members Conference, contributing to motions, and supporting the activities. An elected member of the TUC Disabled Workers Committee, I regularly speak at TUC Disabled Workers Conference and Annual Conference, I talk from direct experience.

The current seat holder for Disabled Members, I have attended every meeting of the Executive and spoken regularly and passionately on Disabled Members issues. Running regular national informal online meetings for higher risk members, I have sought to both support individuals with advice and build our group.

If re elected I would:

Build on the strong start that I have made regards disability equality within our union. For example: ensuring that every part of our last Disabled Members Conference Motion was enacted in terms of the role share, training, and the publication of a leaflet welcoming Disabled Members.

Continue to promote and develop good practice around our new publication The Full Story which deals with disability equality and inclusion through EYFS/Primary story books.

Prioritise the importance of Disabled Members Rights and those of SEND pupils within our NEU.



Nominations for NEC elections 2021-2023

**Sectors seats
(three posts)**

**Independent Sector seat:
Brian Metcalf**

**Post-16 seat:
Duncan Blackie**

**Support Staff seat:
Tracy McGuire
Trish Fay**

Independent Sector Executive Election 2021 - 2023

Please nominate

Brian Metcalf for NEU Independent Sector Executive Seat.

I have over 30 years' experience teaching in the independent sector, from a small prep school, where I worked as co-ordinator, deputy head and acting head, to today as rep at a large independent day school in Newcastle. I currently teach Year Six.



With over 20 years' experience as a rep, I have represented teachers and support staff in a variety of independent schools. I certainly appreciate the unique pressures of working in the independent sector. I was an active member of ATL Newcastle branch for almost a decade, serving as Treasurer and Assistant Branch Secretary. Currently I am Treasurer of NEU Newcastle District. I have attended 9 National Conferences, 8 Independent Sector Conferences and many other events. I am a trained H & S rep and a committed Union Learning Rep, currently chairing the Northern ULR Forum. In 2019/20 I won the Nikki Simpson Award for Learning. The many ULR training sessions I have organised and run have included an event specifically for independent members.

The independent sector needs and deserves an experienced and powerful voice. I was a member of ATL's Independent and Private Sector Advisory Group (IPSAG) for 6½ years. Working as vice chair for most of this time. I have organised workshops and breakout zones at events and helped plan and run the Independent Sector Conference, (e.g. chaired sessions every year). I chaired the independent sector breakout sessions at National Conference in Liverpool in 2018 and 2019.

The independent sector needs an experienced voice that WILL be heard. If I was elected, I would continue to campaign on the issues that matter most to the independent sector: Pensions, extremely high workload, falling pay, conditions of employment that are often worse than the maintained sector, unrealistic demands from parents and SMT, long working hours and the pressures on residential staff. I have proposed and seconded many independent sector motions, speaking at conference on Mental Health, Workload, Pay, Governance and Pensions and would work hard to campaign on all these issues. Providing information to members is important, I have given advice and answered questions on independent sector Zoom meetings this year, something I would continue to prioritise.

We have tens of thousands of NEU members working in the independent sector and I would work to ensure their concerns are highlighted and campaigned for. I participated in both the pension strikes where we successfully fought to maintain independent members access to the TPS so I know what members working together can achieve. I believe the sector's concerns need to be heard and as an active campaigner I have spoken on radio (inc. Virgin, Talk and 5Live), and been quoted in or written articles in regional / national press and independent sector publications. The sector needs a voice that is passionate, will enable change for the better and will be heard.

Please nominate me for the Independent Sector National Executive Seat.

Brian Metcalf

Please contact me with any questions.

Email: brian.metcalf@neu.org.uk

Twitter: @Brian_Metcalf66



Nominate Duncan Blackie for Post 16 Sector Seat, National Executive Committee

Duncan Blackie: Rep at Longley Park SFC Sheffield; Joint DS NUE Sheffield; Vice Chair NEU Post 16 National Council

I am seeking nominations for the Post 16 sector seat in the forthcoming elections. If your district gets the chance to consider supporting me, I will be very grateful.

Leading in action

I have been a rep at my college in Sheffield for the last 16 years, a joint district secretary and a member of the leading Post 16 bodies in our union for many years. I am currently vice chair of the NEU Post 16 Council, and formerly a member of the NUT Organising Forum and Working Party.

I have been one of the key figures in initiating and sustaining the 2019-20 campaign of strike action to secure pay and funding for our sector. This long battle, waged on picket lines by many teachers and lecturers last winter has recently come to fruition with the restoration of pay parity between school teachers and the SFCA scales.

This battle was all about campaigning at every level: rank and file organisation in the colleges; respect and solidarity from the rest of our union; appropriate pressure through the NEC when necessary.

I want to generalise this experience across post 16 with a fight for a national contract which restores decent conditions and pay for our members in every college.

Fighting for safer education, for real education

I am a socialist. The Covid crisis has thrown open the hatches to many dark dungeons of injustice and inequality. It shows we need more teachers, more funding, more social respect for students. I want to fight for these.

It has also posed the question of our priorities. I believe we can't get through the current crisis with colleges operating as exam factories – there is just no fair way of doing it. Moreover, I believe that we should never go back to putting League Tables ahead of real education for life – for broad curricula and choices to suit every student, with our teachers and lecturers at the heart of this.

Fighting for a better world

I am proud to be a part of a union which fights for justice and equality. The NEU has also played a fine role in the recent battles to educate safer. We have done well, but we have titanic challenges ahead.

If we want decent funding for our colleges, we will have to organise and fight for it.

If we want colleges to open new worlds for all our students, we will have to be at the front of that battle.

If we want to deliver a braver, more inspiring curriculum, yep, that's our job too.



Nominate Tracy McGuire for National Executive Sector Seat: Support staff

I am asking for your nomination to re-elect me for the position of Support Staff Representative on the National Executive. Nominations are now open and must be submitted by March 8th. If you have a meeting before then, please put this on the agenda and consider nominating me for the Executive seat.

I have been an Education worker in Darlington Primary Schools for 10 years, and an active union member for all that time. I am currently the rep in my school, as well as the District Secretary for Darlington NEU.

I was elected as the National Support Staff Sector Representative in December 2019. During that time, I am proud to say that support staff membership has nearly doubled in size to 50,000 members, and many of our support staff members have become reps and are active in their workplace.

I have championed the issues facing support staff throughout the pandemic and hosted and spoken at National NEU Zoom meetings. I chaired the Support Staff National Conference 2020, and currently chair the Support Staff National Council. In addition to this, I have spoken at district, regional and equality zoom meetings up and down the country.



My main priority as representative of support staff is to continue to ensure that we are treated equally in our union. This means the NEU fighting for the right to represent and negotiate on behalf of our support staff members at every level. I want to ensure that there are support staff reps in every school, that support staff are a confident and vocal part of every District meeting and that support staff issues are central to everything the union does.

I want to see a campaign for national pay arrangements for all support staff, determined by collective bargaining with trade unions. This must include a call for a living wage for all our members.

Due to austerity, education funding will continue to face cuts. Support Staff members are often on the receiving end of these cuts in terms of job losses and heavier workloads. The NEU must organise a campaign on this. I am currently leading the campaign against a restructure in my school.

Our Support Staff members need a clear, strong voice on the Executive, and I believe that I am delivering that.

Please consider nominating me at your next OGM, I am also more than happy to speak at your meetings.

**In solidarity,
Tracy McGuire
Darlington NEU
National Support Staff Sector
Representative.**

Nominate Trish Fay – County Durham TA for Support Staff Sector Seat

Patricia (Trish) Fay NEU no. N0720816

School rep at Bowburn Primary School Durham



After being a TA for 21 years in a School in Wakefield and TA Level 3 enhanced in a Local Authority school in Durham since 2008, my inner suffragette emerged in 2015 when I was told I would be sacked and re-employed under significantly worse conditions.

I became a proud member of the Durham Lions, a story that is known locally, nationally and globally. A true story of workers joining together and standing up for their rights.

The union I was a member of at the time, told me along with hundreds of other TAs, that there was nothing we could do about it so I left and joined ATL who were fighting for their members rights. My beliefs were being backed by a union who stood with me in protests, marched with me waving banners, spoke up for me when our employers wanted to silence my rights to speak out.

I was a leader in the dispute, heading up the Social Media campaign. Social Media was instrumental in gaining support for the Durham Lions and throughout it all, my union was beside me. I was encouraged to share our campaign and with growing confidence addressed meetings all over the country.

After amalgamation, the 88 ATL support staff members in Durham have grown to a determined group of over 600 NEU members. So many TAs saw the support and help we were getting and left the traditional unions to join the NEU who are a truly inclusive union.