

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF WOMEN

OFFICERS AND EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS ELECTED AT THE AGM 2017

OFFICERS

Anita Wright - President

Member of the National Union of Teachers for over 45 years. Community activists, involved in anti-cuts campaigns. Chair of Save Hay Library and representative on Town Council Strategy Group. Spoken at trade union rallies, demonstrations, conferences and public meetings. Written leaflets and articles on impact of austerity on women. First joined the NAW in 1982, elected Secretary in 2011 and President in 2015. Represent the NAW on the steering committee of the People's Assembly Against Austerity and at other national and international events including at WIDF conferences. Member of Abortion Rights, Cuba Solidarity and Marx Memorial Library. Elected member of the Morning Star Management Committee.

Liz Payne - Secretary

Liz has been a trade union activist and equalities campaigner for more than three decades - at branch, region and national level - in NATFHE and UNISON. Now retired, Liz spent her career in teaching, communications and management in school and higher education and in local government. She is currently chair of UNISON's retired member's organisation for the south west, secretary of Taunton Trades Council, president of Somerset County Association of Trades Councils and a member of the SW TUC Executive. She continues to be a committed campaigner for human and democratic rights, especially in the Middle East. She was a founder member of the Committee for Defence of Iranian People's Rights (CODIR), now an international organisation, and continues on its executive, with a working focus on equality and justice for women.

Eleanor Lewington - Treasurer

NAW Treasurer since 2005. Previously, Pensions Officer Usdaw. Over 40 years membership of MSF/ UNITE: experienced in workplace negotiations in manufacturing industry. Campaigned for better state pensions and continues to work developing NAW policies in this area. Trustee and Deputy Chair of the Working Class Movement Library.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Megan Dobney

Formerly an activist of print unions NGA, GPMU and Amicus. Currently a member of the GMB and Regional Secretary of the Southern and Eastern Region TUC. Member of Sylvia Pankhurst Memorial Committee. Main interests apart from equality for women: trade union rights, children and peace. Current member of the NAW EC.

Sandra Durkin

An active Trade Unionist in PCS/predecessor unions since 1974, as a retired member I continue to support PCS as a lay tutor and mentor. I am currently National Treasurer of PCS Associate and Retired Members (ARMs) and Secretary of the Midlands region of PCS ARMs. As a national and regional officer I am striving to encourage other retired members to continue to use their skills and experience to benefit the wider union and its members and build inter-generational links with our young members.

I am a PCS delegate to the TUC Midlands Pensioners Network and member of a Task Group which has been established to address issues affecting women. Responsibility for developing and implementing equality strategies and policies was a key element of my employment for many years in relation to the post-16 education, training and skills sector while employed by the Learning and Skills Council (LSC). As an Assistant Group Secretary in the PCS LSC Group I held the national lead for equality within the group. Both my TU and work roles have involved developing and delivering training and awareness sessions on equality, including Equality Impact Assessments. I was proud to represent NAW at the Derby Silk Mill festival in 2015. I am also Secretary of Coventry and Warwickshire People's Assembly and continue to fight for a fair and just society for all, particularly for women who continue to bear the brunt of austerity measures.

Siobhan Endean

Siobhan Endean works in Unite the Union's Equality team as a National Officer supporting and empowering the largest democratic voice of women workers and LGBT workers within the trade union movement as secretary to two of Unite the Union's four national equality committees. Siobhan is also national officer for the community youth and not for profit sector of unite the union. Originally from Durham, Siobhan studied for her BA in applied economics at the University of Abertay and went on to be elected as a Student Union officer and then NUS National Women's Officer. She has worked in the union movement since 1992 when she joined the AEU research department specialising in equality and later became a development officer representing members on equality issues. Following from a two year period when Siobhan worked at the Transport and General Workers Union, Siobhan rejoined Amicus in 2003 working in the union's political department as Head of Policy, she went on to become Head of Equality and then National Officer in the finance and legal sector before being appointed to her current role in Unite. Siobhan is an active member of the National Assembly of Women and is keen to support the growth of the organisation among trade union women members.

Bernadette Keaveney

Bernadette works for the Morning Star newspaper as the Circulation Manager and has represented the paper at the TUC Women's conference and other labour movement events. She is an active member of Unite being an officer of the National Print and Media Branch and has recently been delegated to Derby Trade Council. Bernadette has represented NAW at the IWD celebration at Marx house and has attended the NAW Autumn seminar. A member of various organisation including CND, Cuba Solidarity Campaign, Venezuela Solidarity Campaign and Palestine Solidarity Campaign.

Rose Keeping.

Regional Industrial Officer for UNITE the union. Amongst other things I carry out and lead both National & Regional collective bargaining, together with collective & individual advocacy on behalf of Unite members – who work for Trade Unions & Political Parties also for some Not For Profit Organisations. Before becoming a full time official I was a Rep in my workplace and an activist in TASS & MSF, and held various posts both nationally & regionally. I am a member of KNOP (Keep Our NHS Public) who I support & work with in south-west London – Surrey. Also main interests, equalities, trade union rights, human rights & peace. A member of various organisations including Cuba Solidarity and Abortion Rights which I am a member of the Executive Committee.

Carolyn Simpson

Carolyn Simpson has been a full time trade union officer since 1988 and has worked for a number of unions covering industries as diverse as nuclear power stations, shipbuilding, security guards, education and finance. She is currently one of two Regional Women's and Equalities Officers in the London and Eastern Region of Unite the union, and is based in London. Her work takes her to all parts of the Region, which is the largest in the union covering some 250,000 members. She is currently working on the proportional representation of all industrial sectors on the equalities Committees within her Region and also on ensuring the Committees are visible, active, campaigning and successful. Carolyn is also the co-Chair of the Southern and Eastern Region of the TUC (SERTUC) Women's Rights Committee, a position she has held for 9 years. She was instrumental in organising both SERTUC's inaugural and subsequent seminars for women trade unionists highlighting a number of issues affecting all women workers in the UK – such as Equal Pay, Health and Safety, the campaign to de-criminalise prostitution, the work of the NAW and its anti-austerity campaign, the Trade Union Bill and its potential effects on women and the work of the IER. Carolyn was part of the organising committee for the NAW's Women Against Austerity conference held in 2014 and represents the NAW on the Russian Revolution Centenary Committee.

Jo Stevenson

One of the main officials of Birmingham Students Against War, leading the walk-out of 5,000 students in a day of action against Iraq war. Organiser of West Midlands delegation to the WM World Festival Youth & Students held in Caracas in 2008. Member of the Student Council at both college and university and delegate to NUS conferences. Held posts of Secretary and Treasurer of Youth and Student CND. Member of Unite for some years and Treasurer of the WM/5102 branch. Currently volunteer at the Marx Memorial Library and Workers School working on finance and in charge of membership, bringing in new systems and assisting the Secretary to improve relations and communication with the membership. As a young woman with a chronic illness that causes me disablement and long-term unemployment, I know all too well the consequences of the Tory government's attack on the vulnerable and am committed to fighting hard against this.