

# EQUITY LONDON SOUTH

## **FIONA WHITELAW – COUNCIL REPORT DECEMBER 2024**

Council approved the motion that - Jay Lafayette Coward and Dickon Thompson are co-opted to the London South Branch Committee.

That Oscar Simms is co-opted to the LGBT+ Committee

Mary O’Loan is co-opted to the Women’s Committee

### **Timetable for voting on the appointment of the General Secretary**

Monday 13 January 2025 Nominations Open

Friday 28 February 2025 Nominations Close 12 noon

Tuesday 11 March 2025 Council receives a report on nominations

Thursday 20 March 2025 Voting opens

Friday 2 May 2025 Voting closes

Saturday 10 May 2025 Result declared to Council meeting at conference and published on Equity website.

Equity members can be nominated by 50 members in benefit

### **Equalities and Liberation Work**

Equalities and liberation work is to be embedded in the work of Council with reports coming to Council from each area at regular intervals.

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April: Deaf & Disabled and LGBT+ Members

September: Race Equality and Women Members

December: Young Members and Project Evaluation & Setting

## **Safe Spaces**

Our Safe Spaces policy is to be reviewed developing a policy on dignity at work over all sectors. The union is aiming to break the link between applying a dignity at work approach to activism and instead create dynamic and inclusive democratic space which respect and reflect the fact that the union itself is a democratic site of struggle, not a hierarchical workplace.

I raised the matter of our affiliations to anti racism campaigns, this was discussed and will be reported back on. I made the point that a number of other major unions are affiliated to anti racism campaign and that members need to see what our Union stands for.

## **London South motions to Council on Nigerian solidarity**

The motions on Nigerian solidarity brought by London South to Council was referred to the International Solidarity Committee for discussion. Council will need to approve a donation from branch alongside the other actions suggested in the motions.

## **Expenses for Union meeting attendance**

The expenses policy for Union activists has been reviewed and the rates increased

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The following have been added to the General Principles:

The subsistence rates have been reviewed and increased in line with staff expense rates.

## **Rates**

Breakfast (leaving home before 7:30am)

Lunch (FULL attendance at a WHOLE day meeting Dinner

£10.00 £15.00 £30.00

For example, if you provide a receipt for an evening meal for £15 you will be reimbursed the £15 paid; if you provide a receipt for £35 then you will be reimbursed the maximum for an evening meal which is £30.

## **Money Held For Members**

The Council approved minor changes to the policy on Money Held For Members

Where distribution funds are held against individual performer accounts which are undistributable for any reason the Union will:

- Publish a list on our website of individuals we hold an undistributable balance for.
- Place a notice in at least two issues of Equity magazine of the list's existence
- Publish and adopt a policy of reasonable endeavours for finding contact details of performers.

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Transfer money held in performer accounts after the amount of time passed in the Union's rule for holding money to the Union's funds for the benefit of the Union.

Hold a list of performer accounts and monies transferred from those accounts to allow for claims to be considered after the time has passed for receipt of instructions and hold a liability to allow for such claims to be upheld.

## **Training**

Council and Committee Chairs had training on the rise of the far right as part of ongoing strategy on anti-racism training.

## **Policy Paper on Political Climate for Trans People**

Presented by Giovanni Bienne.

Current political environment requires that our union gets ahead of potential issues around casting and conditions at work for our Trans members.

Discussion on strategy around this.