

Lambeth Branch

# UNISON News

Autumn 2019 Issue



## Lambeth UNISON Supports Climate Demo

On Friday 20th September Lambeth UNISON members joined together with workers, school strikers and climate activists to hold a demonstration at Windrush Square in Brixton.

More than two hundred protesters came out to call on the government to take immediate action to tackle the climate crisis, and for the council to follow through on the commitments they made when they formally called a climate emergency in January.

We are facing a global emergency, climate change represents an urgent and potentially irreversible threat to our planet. According to the United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) the Earth's atmosphere is already over 1°C warmer than pre-industrial levels. If drastic change is not

made it is extremely likely we will face rising sea levels, heat waves that will occur more often and last longer and extreme weather events that will become more intense and frequent. The effects of climate change are unevenly distributed, causing the most damage to the most vulnerable groups the world over.

After the demonstration in Windrush Square a delegation of UNISON members headed to Central London with the branch banners to join the protests and show solidarity with the school strikers who were leading the marches from all over the country.

**Andrew McCabe**  
Branch Publicity Officer

### We Need Your Submissions!

Do you have any ideas for articles, or any information that you'd like to share with members?

Send suggestions for the next issue of the branch newsletter to Andrew McCabe the branch publicity officer by email at [amccabe@lambeth.gov.uk](mailto:amccabe@lambeth.gov.uk)

Follow Lambeth UNISON on Twitter at  
[@LambethUNISON](https://twitter.com/LambethUNISON)

Search Facebook for  
'Lambeth UNISON'

Visit our website  
[lambeth-unison.org](http://lambeth-unison.org)

**Join UNISON - [join.unison.org.uk](http://join.unison.org.uk)**

# Why Privatisation Does Not Work

There is a presumption that private companies are more efficient, work harder, and get the best results. The private sector does this by putting down the public sector with labels such as lazy, politically correct, jobsworths! The Media love to ridicule the Public Sector, and take every opportunity to influence the great British public, with headlines like 'Bungling Council Officers' We have all seen them!

Take any service and say it costs 100 million to run for a year. Along come the privateers who say we will provide exactly the same service for 75 million a year. The Leaders of the public sector think great – 25 million saved! And we can make more savings as we don't have to

bother with employees, staff relations, Managers, HR, payroll, pensions, sickness etc etc etc. Plus they can get rid of Staff, it seems a win win situation.

They think they are making great savings.

The Private Company now want to cream off profits of 25 million, to pay for their Management Team and shareholders. So the Service instead of being funded 100 million and now funded by half - 50 million.

In anybody's book how are you going to keep the same or give a better service with only half the funding?

Let's look at an example of your weekly

shop that costs £100, are you going to get the same quantity, quality and value only spending £50? You may be able to make some savings but nowhere near 50% worth of savings – so what do you do? There are only two answers;

- Provide less
- Reduce the quality

The Private Company cannot provide the same service!

This is why privatisation doesn't work

**Bernard Conmy**

Branch Health & Safety Officer



**Show Racism The Red Card!**

Thank you all for donations towards the fight against racism. Show Racism the Red Card is the UK's leading anti-racism educational charity.

The money raised by Lambeth staff will provide workshops, training sessions, multimedia packages, and many other resources, for tackling racism in society. Established in January 1996, the organisation uses the status of football and football players to publicise its message. Across Britain, Show Racism the Red Card delivers training to more than 50,000 individuals per year.

Let's stop the monkey chanting, banana throwing and racist environment our footballers have to endure. We stand with the footballers who stand UP and speak UP against racism.

Let's work for an anti-racist society.

**Jocelyn Cruywagen**

Publicity officer for Lambeth UNISON Black workers group.

## Is the NHS up for sale to US Drug companies?

Boris Johnson and the Tory Government continuously say that the NHS is not for sale. In my experience to find the truth it is best to look at all of the evidence.

Drugs in the US cost a lot more than they do in the UK. In Britain the world's 20 top selling medicines are three times cheaper than in the U.S. (Reuters). So if US Drugs companies supplied the NHS we would be paying three times more for the drugs. Kerching! America First – and laughing all the way to Wall Street! American Pharmaceutical Companies are worth billions of dollars, they charge lots for their drugs, they are big players

and they want to play here! And take our money.

Well we have British Government Officials travelling to the USA, and there are accounts of six secret meetings between UK Officials and Representatives of US Drug companies to discuss a possible NHS post-Brexit trade deal. What was said in those meetings is being withheld – kept secret! This is what they don't say. Look at the evidence and not the lies!

**Bernard Conmy**

Branch Health & Safety Officer

## Disability Information Day

### 28th November

The Greater London Regional Disabled Members' Committee is holding a Disability Information Day on Thursday 28 November 2019 for all branch activists

who want to develop their knowledge and skills around advising and representing disabled members.