

INITIAL MOTIONS FOR LAMBETH UNISON 2026 AGM



[These may be composited in the event of similar motions being submitted]

Contents

Motion one Together Alliance and fighting racism	2
Motion two Support for the Ecosocialism 2026 Conference	3
Motion three Oppose Trump's attack on Venezuela	4
Motion four Venezuela motion	5
Motion five Fighting Cuts to Lambeth Public Services in 2026	7
Motion six Let Us Build a Police Establishment Free from Racism and Sexism.....	8
Motion seven Branch Rule change	10

Motion one Together Alliance and fighting racism

1. This AGM notes the growth of parties like Reform and the size of the movement around known violent racist Tommy Robinson. The rise in support of populist right wing parties and leaders like Donald Trump is a sign of the shift in politics in the last 40 years as people turn to nationalism and racism as social democracy and liberal values retreat.
2. The far right attacks people based on skin colour but also the LGBTQ+ community, women who don't conform to traditional gender roles and also trade unionists who stand up to the bosses.
3. The Together Alliance protest on 28th March is a chance to turn out hundreds of thousands against the far right and what they stand for. Making this demo as big as possible is really important to turning the tide.
4. This AGM also notes the lack of class politics in Together, it says nothing about how life is getting more difficult for ordinary people or how state racism is increasing.
5. Lambeth UNISON believes that we need a mass anti racist movement that is rooted in our communities and unites working class people of all ethnicities against the real enemy – the super rich who are buying super yachts whilst workers rely on foodbanks.
6. Lambeth UNISON will
 - a. Promote the Together Alliance protest on 28th March
 - b. Help to promote a trade union bloc on the demo
 - c. Work with others to build a working class anti racist movement.

Proposer: Simon Hannah

Motion two Support for the Ecosocialism 2026 Conference

This AGM believes that the climate and ecological crisis is not a distant environmental issue but a direct and growing threat to people's jobs, health, pay, and living conditions, both in the UK and globally. Extreme weather, rising food and energy costs, pollution, and insecure supply chains disproportionately affect working-class communities, while workers in the Global South face the most severe impacts despite having contributed least to the crisis.

This AGM recognises that current economic systems place profit before people and planet, driving environmental destruction alongside exploitation of labour. Workers in the Global South are often forced into dangerous, low-paid work in extractive industries, agriculture, and manufacturing to sustain global supply chains that benefit multinational corporations. Climate breakdown is deepening global inequality, fuelling displacement, poverty, and conflict.

This AGM believes that trade unions have a vital role to play in advancing a just transition—one that protects jobs, expands public services, defends our rights, and ensures climate action does not come at the expense of working people. Any serious response to the crisis must be rooted in international solidarity and democratic control of energy, transport, and industry.

In the TUC's Year of Climate Action, the Ecosocialism 2026 Conference provides an important space for trade unionists, climate activists, and workers from across the world to share experiences, develop strategies, and build solidarity for systemic change that prioritises social and climate justice.

Resolves

- To promote and back TUC Climate Action events
- To endorse and back the Ecosocialism Conference 2026
- To reaffiliate to the Campaign Against Climate Change

More details at www.ecosocialism-conference.org and <https://www.cacctu.org.uk/>

Proposer: Simon Hannah

Motion three Oppose Trump's attack on Venezuela

This UNISON AGM 2026 condemns US President Trump's escalation of violence against Venezuela, which has seen the bombing of the capital Caracas and the abduction and arrest of Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro.

This is on top of the US military airforce bombing shipping off the coast of Venezuela and in the Caribbean and the seizure of oil tankers by US military forces.

This UNISON AGM 2026 rejects any notion that these actions and threats are in response to 'drug cartels'.

Trump has blatantly said that the US will "run" Venezuela, particularly targeting the publicly-owned oil industry – which has the world's largest proven crude oil reserves

He has a blood-stained record - backing up the genocidal attack by the Israeli Government and military in Gaza. Disgracefully, they have been joined in this by Starmer's Labour Government.

Trump has also ordered bombing of targets in Iran while totally defending the Saudi Arabian feudal dictatorship which executed at least 356 people last year.

The US has a long history of capitalist imperialist aggression in South and Central America, including assisting the brutal and illegal coup by Pinochet against the democratically elected socialist government in 1973 and the murder of the president Salvador Allende.

When previous Venezuelan president Chavez was deposed via a coup, the US rushed to recognise his 'successor'.

However, through mass action, the coup was defeated and Chavez was restored. His government implemented policies such as the nationalisation of the oil and gas industry.

This UNISON AGM 2026 believes that Trump's actions are aimed at ensuring a regime in Venezuela in the interests of US capitalism, as well as trying to intimidate the working-class and poor masses throughout the region, suffering from brutal austerity. Whilst not endorsing the programme and methods of Maduro's government, it is the task of the Venezuelan masses to settle their own accounts with it, we stand in total opposition to this imperialist intervention by the Trump regime aimed at getting control of Venezuelan oil, and the country itself. Neither Trump nor the right-wing Thatcherite opposition led by Machado are concerned about the interests of Venezuelan workers or poor.

This UNISON AGM 2026 welcomes the protests that have taken place in the US against Trump's attack on Venezuela.

They are a further indication of the emergence of opposition to Trump's big business government in the US, particularly its anti-worker, anti-union policies and its scapegoating of migrant workers. In June, SEIU trade union California President David Huerta was arrested in ICE Raids. An estimated 7 million people took part in the 'No Kings' demonstrations throughout the US in October.

This Lambeth UNISON AGM 2026 calls on our union to:-

- send support and solidarity to workers and their unions in Venezuela and the US in their fight against Trump's policies and aggression, and for our union to support protests and demonstrations and to mobilise our members for them.
- call for international workers' solidarity against Trump's imperialist aggression and big business policies. We welcome the incredible mass strikes by Italian workers in solidarity with the Gaza flotilla in October.
- support the building of a political alternative for workers in the US and here in the UK in opposition to Starmer on a socialist programme, and call on our union to play an active role in this.

Proposed Andy Tullis – Convenor Children's Services

Seconded:

Motion four Venezuela motion

This Branch Notes:

- That the US government has launched an unjust military attack on Venezuela, bombing the capital of Caracas and kidnapping President Nicolas Maduro.
- That the president has repeatedly stated the US will "run the country", and boasted about using the invasion as an excuse to expand US oil operations in Venezuela.
- That Trump has also repeatedly made threats to the governments of Colombia, Cuba and Iran in recent days.
- That the Maduro government has been a deeply unpopular, de facto military regime, which relies on the suppression of opposition and falsifying elections.

Believes:

- That Venezuela, like all nations, has a right to self-determination, and the US is denying that right by kidnapping the country's president and enforcing their own rule.

- That there are no grounds for Maduro and his wife to be tried in American courts, and they should be released.
- That the people of Venezuela should have the right to elect their own leader, free from imperialist intervention.
- That the US plan to force Venezuela to accept its dictated policies is unjust, and must be opposed.
- That workers' movements worldwide are the force we should look to for social change.

This Branch Resolves:

- To call for the US to get out of Venezuela.
- To promote the voices of the anti-Chavismo left in Venezuela.
- To support calls for:
 - o The release of all Venezuelan political prisoners
 - o Freedom for left parties to operate
 - o Immediate free elections in Venezuela

Proposed Ruth Cashman

Motion five Fighting Cuts to Lambeth Public Services in 2026

- This branch reiterates its resolve to fighting cuts to local public services in 2026 (See the anti-cuts motions to the Lambeth UNISON AGM 2025).
- This branch notes the current budget crisis in Lambeth Council finances and the Labour Group cuts budget passed in late 2025.
- This branch notes and endorses the Lambeth Trades Councils efforts to convene a “Peoples Budget” Conference 2026, so that local Trade Unions and Community Organisations can develop a no-cuts needs budget based on what Lambeth residents and workers really need to defend and improve public services in the borough.
- We resolve to continue our work with the Trades Council in developing ideas for a Peoples Budget and networking with community organisations and TU’s in fighting cuts .
- This branch notes that there is a full Council Budget Setting meeting on the 4th of March 2026 one day after our UNISON AGM.
- This branch resolves to use the AGM (3rd March 2026) to also publicise and build for a lobby of the full Council Budget setting meeting 4th March 2026 to show the ruling Labour group TU & Community opposition to their cuts budget.
- This branch notes the May elections 2026, the potential threat of far-right candidates locally and nationally based on disillusionment and anger at continuing Starmer/Labour austerity, and resolves to explore avenues of supporting local workers movement/anti-cuts candidates that support Union policies.
- This branch notes the motion to Lambeth Unison 21/10/25 supporting the motion passed at TUC conference 2025 calling on the TUC to name the date for a national demonstration against Starmer/Labour austerity.

Proposed: Andy Tullis, Convenor Children’s Services

Seconded

Motion six Let Us Build a Police Establishment Free from Racism and Sexism

Our movement has consistently affirmed its commitment to equality, dignity, and fair treatment for all. Through motions passed at National Delegate Conference (NDC) and National Black Members' Conference (NBMC), UNISON has demonstrated its determination to challenge racism and sexism in the workplace and across society. Central to this commitment is the shared belief that a police service trusted by all communities is essential to public safety, legitimacy, and social cohesion.

We recognise that many police officers and police staff are dedicated professionals working in demanding circumstances to protect the public. A significant number of police staff are UNISON members, giving our union a strong and positive opportunity to influence change from within. By working in partnership with police staff colleagues, UNISON can help ensure that policing continues to improve, learns from criticism, and actively addresses overt, covert, and perceived racism and sexism. Constructive scrutiny strengthens public services and supports those who work within them.

It was therefore disappointing that at NDC 2024, Black members who spoke against Motions 15 and 56, and who shared lived experiences of racism and sexism within policing, were heckled and not fully heard. Open dialogue, mutual respect, and a willingness to listen are essential to building trust and achieving meaningful reform. Lived experience should be recognised as a vital contribution to improvement, not dismissed or silenced.

Trust between the police and many Black communities remains fragile, shaped by long-standing experiences of over-policing, discrimination, and harassment. Rebuilding that trust requires honesty, accountability, and a genuine commitment to learning from past failures. Acknowledging serious shortcomings—such as those exposed in the handling of the murders of the Smallman sisters—must be understood as part of raising professional standards and restoring public confidence.

Police officers and police staff operate as part of a single policing system. Improving workplace culture, accountability, and standards across the police establishment benefits staff morale, strengthens professionalism, and improves outcomes for the public.

Independent reviews have repeatedly highlighted the need for reform. The Macpherson Report (1999) and the Baroness Casey Review (2023) both identified deep-rooted issues of racism and sexism within policing. These findings underline the urgency of sustained reform, transparent leadership, and partnership with communities and trade unions.

Public safety cannot be delivered by enforcement alone. It also depends on strong communities and properly funded public services. Investment in local government,

youth services, legal services, and measures that reduce poverty and inequality is essential to safer, more cohesive communities.

We also express serious concerns about the use of Live Facial Recognition (LFR) technology. While innovation may have a role in modern policing, its deployment must be lawful, proportionate, transparent, and fair. Evidence shows that LFR risks disproportionately impacting Black communities and undermining civil liberties, damaging trust and contradicting the aims of the Police Race Action Plan.

Our aim is not to undermine policing, but to support the development of a police establishment that is fair, accountable, professional, and trusted by all communities. By listening to lived experience, supporting police staff, and working in partnership with trade unions and communities, meaningful and lasting change can be achieved.

This AGM therefore resolve to:

1. Acknowledge the recommendations of the Baroness Casey Review and ensure they are widely shared and discussed across branches.
2. Continue support for the United Friends and Families Campaign, as adopted by NBMC 2018 (Motion 23).
3. Support police staff colleagues to eradicate racism and sexism within the police establishment, including comprehensive anti-racist and equality training for police staff and officers, designed with trade union input and delivered by credible Black and minority trainers.
4. Adopt a campaign to halt the use of Live Facial Recognition (LFR) by the Metropolitan Police and other police services until concerns around bias, accountability, and civil liberties are resolved.
5. Campaign for increased funding and a clear timetable for the full restoration of funding to local government, youth services, legal services, and other public services cut over the past decade and a half.
6. Campaign for a truly independent police watchdog, separate from police services, with real powers to investigate misconduct and ensure accountability.
7. Campaign for decisive disciplinary action, including dismissal where appropriate, against police officers or staff who engage in racist, sexist, or discriminatory conduct.
8. Campaign for a rebalancing of police powers, including the use of force, stop and search, police presence in schools, and the abolition of the PREVENT strategy.
9. This branch sends this motion to National Delegate Conference.

Propose by Lambeth UNISON Black workers

Date: 5th Jan 2026.

Motion seven Branch Rule change

The Branch Committee may in exceptional circumstances where an urgent decision is required before the next scheduled meeting and it is not practicable to organise an extraordinary meeting take decisions by e-voting. All committee members will be e-mailed.

In order for the vote outcome to be valid a quorate number is needed. The result will be based on a majority vote.

Proposed Jocelyn Cruywagen