

# *North West Regional Women's Lead*

## INTRODUCTION

Hello my name is Sheila Biggins and I am the North West Women's Regional Lead Officer. I hope to pop these newsletters out every now and then to keep you informed and up to date on what's going on in our region.

I work for Royal Mail at the Bolton West Delivery Office and I'm also the Equality Officer for North West Number1 Branch.

I am involved with the North West Trade Union Congress (TUC) and currently sit on their NWTUC Equality Forum

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This pandemic has shone a light on long-standing, structural race inequality and raised serious issues that are yet to be fully answered. The Government has done nothing to remove the barriers BAME workers face many of which are stuck in insecure and temporary jobs. The Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC) is investigating whether the government broke the law when it introduced its "hostile environment measures". The hostile environment continues to devastate the lives of Black workers and communities.

The CWU joined together with Show Racism the Red Card (SRTRC) to launch their England Charity Shirt with profits being split between FareShare and anti-racism charities.

Current and former professional footballers posted Photos of themselves wearing the joint CWU and SRTRC England shirt on Social Media-



Lee Clark - Former Newcastle  
 Bryan Robson- former Man U and England captain  
 Steve Howey- former NUFC MCFC England  
 Chris Powell- former Carlton  
 Andre & Gary Bennett- former Sunderland  
 Howard Gayle- the first black player for Liverpool  
 Paul Davies and David O'Leary -former Arsenal  
 Leroy Rosenior- QPR Fulham Bristol City WHU  
 Alan Hudson- Chelsea and England legend  
 Paul Elliot- former Chelsea and Celtic  
 Jason Lee- Nottingham Forest  
 John Beresford- NUFC Portsmouth

Nicen Neetz Chelsea and England

## 19th June CWU Against Racism

Chris Webb did a fantastic job chairing this event he handed over to Dave Ward (General Secretary) to open the event declaring we stand against any forms of racism. Also on the panel was our very own Ian Taylor (Divisional Rep/ NEC), Kate Hudson (Equality and Education), Quincy Raymond (Young Worker/BAME Officer for his Branch North East Young Workers Lead), Ali Moosa (BAME Officer NEC) and guest speaker Curtis Fleming who is an Irish former international footballer he played left back and won international honours for the Republic of Ireland at all levels of football.



We must educate ourselves and then take that knowledge to our friends, families and workplaces. There are some great books, podcasts and TV shows to get you started. For more information or support get in touch with the [CWU Equality and Education](#)



## 22nd June Windrush Event

Janice Richardson chaired this well needed celebration of windrush event she first invited Ian Taylor (Divisional Rep/NEC) to speak, then the panel Amrit Wilson (writer and activist on issues of race and gender), Ali Moosa (BAME Officer NEC), Tony Kearns (Senior Deputy General Secretary) and Bishop Dr Des Jaddoo (Chair of Windrush Movement). They were the people who

answered the call of help and came over here to help rebuild Britain after the war had to pay for their own fair on the SS Windrush. They were told to buy clothes for our colder weather, there was no accommodation waiting for them when they arrived and their skilled professions were ignored. They were classed as unskilled workers. They were all British Citizens travelling under British passports but classed as immigrants.

Sitting in Limbo is a feature-length factual TV drama about the Windrush scandal. The story focuses on the real life experience of a Jamaican born British man Anthony Bryan, one of the victims of the UK Home Office hostile environment policy on immigration.

**It's not enough not to be a racist! We have to be anti racist!**



**11th June 6pm Pride** Chris Webb opened the meeting. Both he and Kate Hudson expressed how delighted and impressed they were with the effort everyone had made and how colourful the event was. Chris then played us a CWU video of all the Regions celebrating Pride Events. A report was given by all the Regional LGBT Leads, Karen Kendrick gave the report for the North West. We had a panel which consisted of Sarah Eastern Region LGBT+ Lead, Maria Exall TUC General Council GLC London and Quinn Roache TUC LGBT Officer

Karen Kendrick as you've never seen her before who was recognised as best dressed

## 15 July Count Me In Campaign

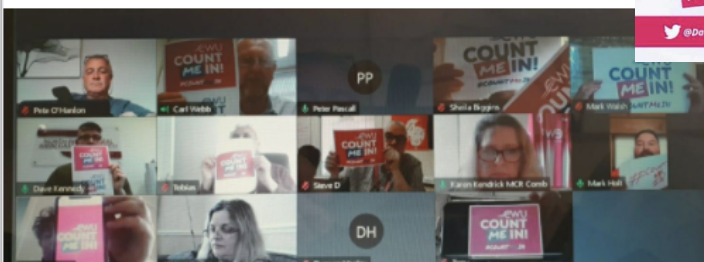
We are facing huge problems across the whole of BT! With the company setting aside £1.3 billion over the next few years to introduce a major cost-cutting plan. It will result in forced compulsory redundancies, attacks on pay, terms and conditions. Those who remain in employment will end up with an intensification of their daily workload. We cannot stand by and allow the company to press on regardless. We cannot allow them to ignore your voice and the voice of the union and that is why today 15th July the union is launching our 'Count Me In' Campaign.

We are going to engage with our members across every part of BT, get them behind the union. We are going to put the pressure on the company and shareholders alike and we will go to an industrial ballot and take action if needed. BT members have been classified as key workers and have kept the country connected and we simply cannot allow BT's plans to destroy their future.

Members need to get behind the union and we can deliver a better future for our members.



#TheCWU NW Regional Exec showing their support for our BT Members and the #CountMeIn campaign





## 16th July Update from Terry Pullinger

Firstly Terry expressed his solidarity for our BT members from the postal side of the union and of course Andy Kerr and encouraged our BT members to stick together and get fully behind the union.

When we secured the four pillars agreement, it was a blueprint for change, we knew change was coming down the line. There's been a trend of declining letters and a growth in parcels so we knew what was coming, we knew it would be challenging and the four pillars laid out and dealt with this and would genuinely have had a chance to influence that future and produce mutual interest solutions as well as benefits for our members and the business, that's where we are again now. I'm pleased to say after a hiatus of two years, which was destructive and so unnecessary in my opinion if they just stuck to that agreement I think we've been in a much better place now, even though we still wouldn't have been immune to the challenges that Covid 19 has brought.

Royal Mail ambassadors are out there putting a message out about the situation of the finances and the challenges the company face and I believe they are serious challenges and require a serious response from this trade union, I will say it's not a time for panic, I genuinely think we can come out the other side with our 4 pillars intact.

I think if it wasn't for the strength of this union! If our members in postal hadn't backed us the way they did! We wouldn't be in that room and have a chance to shape the future. The company has said it is committed to all our agreements and protections for all our members.

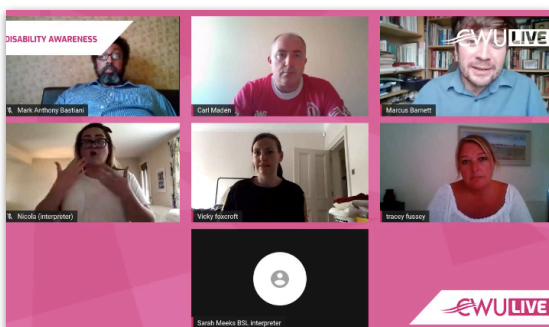


## 16th July Disability Awareness

The CWU Equality and Education dept held the Disability Awareness Online Event, which promised to be an engaging discussion with a great panel!

Marcus Barnett (Communications Team Support) chaired this meeting, speakers included Vicky Foxcroft (Labour's shadow minister for the Disabled people), Carl Maden (Assistant Secretary Postal), Tracey Fussey (NEC) and Mark Anthony Bastiani (NEC Disability Lead). Given the scale of the crisis unfolding all around us, I think we can all agree that

the need for this meeting could not be clearer from all the misery and the stress that all of us have been through these past few months. This was a good event for us to hold a discussion from a trade union movement and perspective how the crisis has hit the disabled community the hardest. The impact that this moment has had on the mental health of many of our workers and how we need to be thinking about the union response to these questions in a serious way.



Please join us on the 28th July  
For our women of Today Event  
Register at [cwunwreg@gmail.com](mailto:cwunwreg@gmail.com)

## WOMEN OF TODAY

Online event • Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> July 18.00 - 19.30

**Speakers**  
*Jean Sharrocks, Women's Lead (NEC)*  
*Vera Kelsey, CWU Activist*  
*Angela Connell, Union Tutor*

The first in a series of CWUNW events  
around the theme of assertiveness.

This is primarily designed for women  
but all members are welcome

Register now! [cwunwreg@gmail.com](mailto:cwunwreg@gmail.com)



The communications union

**NORTH WEST**



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