



48 is the average age of a UNISON member – it is an alarming statistic that is rising. If we do not do something about it the long term future of the Trade Union movement will be done irreparable damage. More and more young people are asking the question “What is a trade union?” because they have been brought up in a different age where the onus has been very much on looking after number one. This is in itself a good thing as young people are more confident than ever in speaking up for themselves – but the value of speaking as one should never be lost, and it is up to us to make sure young people understand the power of solidarity.

All the young dudes

26 or below is the age at which you must be to qualify as a young member. We know that there are many members that are young at heart, but we have to draw the line somewhere! One of our aims this year is to elect a Young members officer. This is a key role in the Branch that involves recruiting new members and encouraging existing members to become more active; to make sure that issues of concern to young workers are raised by the Branch; and above all to be a focal point for all young members in the Branch so that they can come to you with ideas, concerns and problems. If you are 26 or under and a UNISON member why not get in touch for a chat about what the role involves, what you could bring to it, and what you could get from it!

Happy days

Being a young worker should be a fantastic experience – a satisfying job, learning new skills, making money and new friends. Sadly, for many young people it just isn't like that. Low pay, dangerous jobs, harassment, and bullying can make going to work a nightmare. UNISON fights for improved working conditions, better pay, more rights and an end to discrimination. If you're reading this and you're not a UNISON member contact the Branch office on Ext: 5846 or speak to a local UNISON steward today.

Forever young

If you are not technically young but work with young people why not ask them if they are a UNISON member – if they aren't ask them to join – too many young people say they aren't in a union because they've never been asked! That doesn't just go for young members either – there may be someone in your workplace that is not in the union. The more members we have, the easier it is to get employers to listen to what our members have to say.

Do you know someone that would fit the bill as a Young member's officer? Why not talk to them about it and encourage them to get involved. It's time to bring on the next generation of activists to make sure they carry on the good work that generations before them have done so well – so help us to help you protect our future together.