

Trades Union Congress

South West Regional Council

Unit 6, Aztec Centre, Aztec West, Almondsbury, Bristol BS32 4TD

Tel: 0117 947 0521 Email: southwest@tuc.org.uk Twitter: @TUCSouthWest

Women's Committee

AGENDA

Wednesday, 26 February 2025

Zoom – 14.00-16.00

IN ATTENDANCE

Amanda Brown (UNISON)

Kerry Cassidy (ASLEF)

Cathy Chilcott (CWU)

Hannah David (PCS)

Sue Francis (PCS)

Elaine Ledger-Jones (Community)

Emma McBride (CWU)

Vanessa McCaffrey (UNISON)

Fflyff McLaren (Unite)

Karen Williams (UNISON)

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from Judith Desbonne; Samantha Wright, Lesley Mansell, Debi Potter, Lynda Rooke, Sally Risling, Liz Payne-Ahmadi, Rosie MacGregor.

2. Updates from 22 January meeting and matters arising

Amanda recapped the meeting agreements. Networking evening at Annual Conference: Amanda looking at Thompson's sponsoring it as they did last year, no reply to date.

3. National Women's Conference: 5-7 March

Sue Francis and Kerry Cassidy will be in attendance.

4. Annual Conference – 14-15 March

Women's networking evening meeting: Sadie to chase whether it will be held in the Pavilion.

Karen suggested a discussion about good practice in employment negotiation on tackling sexual harassment and offered to facilitate. She will revert to Sadie if there is a need for flipcharts or other equipment. Sadie to check who Thompsons are sending to conference this year. Sue suggested sending a request to all women attending that they bring relevant policies so they have them ready for discussion.

5. Women Safety Reps Connect – 26 April

The following sessions were discussed:

- a. Thompsons: Lisa Gutter on sexual harassment and the prevention act.
- b. Organising for women's health and safety (Maria Boyle / Unite @ Hinkley)
- c. Women's PPE – Panel with UNISON, GMB, FBU, RMT.
- d. Shelly Asquith / What it means to be an H&S rep
- e. Breast Cancer at work / Returning to work & support during treatment: Karen to look for a specialist speaker. Macmillan on work and cancer.
- f. Intersectionality: Black workers, migrant workers, stress and mental health

Sadie will draft an agenda (timings) and share with the group, ensuring effective breaks and not overloading the agenda. Sadie to check which room is booked. Two keynote speakers each 20 minutes. Longer sessions for the panels. Possibly not enough time for the intersectionality panel.

Logistics will include:

- a. Venue/catering book – Rougemont Hotel, EXETER
- b. Coordinating with proposed speakers
- c. Whether to invite men

There was a discussion on whether this ought to be a women's only event. It was decided that it should be available for all reps and activists to attend. We will revisit strategies if the event is oversubscribed. Sadie to coordinate catering.

Amanda has asked Thompson's to sponsor a bag as a freebie for attendees. Hannah suggested if we get merchandise to keep some back for the Tolpuddle session.

6. Tolpuddle Martyrs' Festival – 18-20 July 2025

The following was mentioned with regards to discussion topics:

- a. Women's session
Staffing may be a problem. They will revisit at the next session to see if it is

viable. If it does go ahead, the team would like an event in the Organise Tent on the Saturday morning approx. 10am for 90 mins (possibly earlier start).

- b. Menstruation station
Shan Vahidy praised for her coordination and idea, and the stations was very well received.

7. Committee meeting dates for 2025-6

- a. Meeting time relative to Regional Executive
- b. Tentative dates for formal meetings proposed by TUC South West (to be reviewed and amended as needed, in relation to above):
 - i. 30 Apr 2025, online, 2-4 PM
 - ii. 17 Sep 2025, in person, **evening**
 - iii. 10 Dec 2025, online, 2-4 PM
 - iv. 4 Mar 2026, online, 2-4 PM

Tentative proposal to move all dates to Tuesdays to get ahead of the Regional Exec. Next **date 23 April**, confirmed & moved before public event. Other three to be proposed and approved or rejected/modified on that date.

Discuss September evening event at the next meeting.

- c. Informal meetings – review and plan going forward. Will be set as one offs before key events - time dedicated to concrete events and projects.
- d. Union campaigns and updates

ASLEF are resetting and building women's network after 3 years on strike action and UNISON has had some key wins on rebanding.
- e. Any other business - N/A

8. Date of Next Meeting

This will take place at the Annual Conference on 14 March with the subsequent meeting set for 23 April.