



Please nominate Colleen Johnson for

The Equality Constituency Seat: Disability



Originally from Middlesbrough, I have spent more than thirty years as a primary teacher, in both Birmingham and Worcester

Dedicated to equality, I worked for The Multicultural Development Unit for more than nine years.

Active within our union, previously as school rep then an equality officer for Birmingham NEU, I am now part of Worcestershire NEU Committee and in school on a regular basis.

Formerly a member of the working party and vice chair of the advisory group, I am now chair of the NEU Disabled Members Organising Forum.

I have led the NEU Disabled Members Conference, contributing to motions, and supporting the activities. An elected member of the TUC Disabled Workers Committee, I regularly speak at TUC Disabled Workers Conference and Annual Conference, I talk from direct experience.

The current seat holder for Disabled Members, I have attended every meeting of the Executive and spoken regularly and passionately on Disabled Members issues. Running regular national informal online meetings for higher risk members, I have sought to both support individuals with advice and build our group.

If re elected I would:

Build on the strong start that I have made regards disability equality within our union. For example: ensuring that every part of our last Disabled Members Conference Motion was enacted in terms of the role share, training, and the publication of a leaflet welcoming Disabled Members.

Continue to promote and develop good practice around our new publication The Full Story which deals with disability equality and inclusion through EYFS/Primary story books.

Prioritise the importance of Disabled Members Rights and those of SEND pupils within our NEU.

Support and champion the rights of members more medically at risk from Covid as well as those likely to be affected by the effects of Long Covid.

Support the engagement and activism of disabled trade unionists, especially those within our organising forum from around the regions, to broaden and strengthen our group.

Continue to visit as many districts as possible, virtually if necessary, to build the Disabled Members group through discussion about who is covered by The Equality Act and encouraging members to self- declare to us, their union. Promoting understanding about visible and invisible impairments.

Educate around reasonable adjustments and risk assessments to keep members safe and support them to obtain what they are entitled to.

Highlight the deeply worrying attitudes and actions of this government in relation to Disabled People.

Persistently highlight the need for an education workforce that is more diverse and have that reflected in the materials that we produce.

Reinforce our commitment to positive language regards Disabled People and The Social Model of Disability.

Focus upon the need for good disability equality work within the school curriculum that includes a focus upon Disability History Month (DHM).

Do everything within my power to ensure that student teachers and NQTs learn about the importance of teaching about disability equality.

Encourage the NEU to pursue cases of unfair treatment under The Equality Act (disability), taking appropriate legal action where possible.

Colleen Johnson Jan 2021