

# Women in UNISON



“ We had a staff meeting last Friday and I spoke out about the rota being unfair to part-time staff and female support workers. The senior supervisor tried to shoot me down in flames. However, I stood my ground and asked her if I was right in saying that team meetings were in place for staff and management to bring up any problems at work. She said yes so I asked her if I could finish what I was saying ... AND, BOY DID I FINISH WHAT I WAS SAYING.

The rota has now been changed to suit all members of staff—male, female, full-time and part-time. **You gave me the confidence to do that—I can't believe how much the Pathways course has helped me and, in turn will help others at my work.”**

June, Support Worker

**A Pathways Course  
is being organised in  
your area in  
November 2009**

**Dates and venue  
to be confirmed**

**Interested?**

**Contact—Lynne Duncan  
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Email  
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## Pathways Course Aims

- explore what trade unions are for
- appreciate the skills that many women develop not just at work but in dealing with day to day life
- explore why women do or don't get involved in the union and why it's important that they are involved.
- be more familiar with how UNISON works and how women can get involved.
- appreciate how existing skills can be applied in new situations, including in working life and in the union.
- gain confidence in your ability to use your skills in the union

“ I gained such a lot from those 2 days, it was really interesting and I learned so much more about UNISON and realised they offer so much more than I initially thought. **If I hadn't attended the Pathways course then I would never have felt I had the confidence to put myself forward to become a steward, so many thanks.”**

Nichola, Clerical Worker

# Do you want to find out more about your union? Pathways into UNISON is your chance to find out all you need to know

Have you ever thought about becoming more active in UNISON, even in a small way, but don't know much about it? Maybe you don't think you have the skills or you're unsure what's involved?

## What is Pathways?

Pathways is a course that has been specifically developed for women members to provide a general introduction to UNISON and women's involvement in the union.

## How will Pathways benefit me?

The course will provide an opportunity for you to gain confidence in your skills and abilities and to recognise how they can put these to use in union work without having to commit all your spare time and energy.

It's also a great opportunity to make new friends and take time out from your busy life.

## How is the course run?

The course is tutored by women and runs over 2 days, usually at a local hotel so that participants can stay overnight if they want to. You don't need any qualifications and Pathways courses are always very informal and relaxed.

## Will I get time off work to attend?

If the course is run on a day that you work your branch will try and negotiate paid time off for you with your employer.

“I went on the course feeling that I, although not stupid, didn't know very much at all. On completion I realised that **I do know a lot more than I had first thought and that women in the workplace in low paid jobs have a whole lot more to offer than I had previously thought.**

I would certainly encourage any other women who get the chance to go on the course and grab it with both hands. The bonding between the women, which was not part of the course helped in a huge way to put us all at our ease.”

Lorna, Clerical Worker