

To Equality network

- 1. National SOG conferences** – as part of a strategy to improve SOG activity in branches the Regional Equality strategy committee looked at attendance at national SOG conferences. The attached is a breakdown of branch attendance at each SOG conference for 2007-9, including members attending in any capacity eg delegate, visitor, national committee or standing orders. It doesn't make for happy reading! Between 55-65% of Branches failed to send a single member to any SOG conference each year.

There was a significant increase in the number of branches sending members to Black members in 2009 – possibly influenced by the fact it was held in the region for the first time that year. Approx 10 branches were represented at Disabled members, approx 25 branches were represented at Women's Conference. There was an increase in branches sending delegates to LGBT conference last year.

So why is this? All too often branch officers will say that they cannot find members to go and yet I also hear of members who don't know that as a lay member they are able to attend. Branches should set aside the budget to support attendance and travel expenses are covered by national office. Below are the dates of all the Conferences. **Please ensure that your branch sends a delegation to each conference.**

- 2. FYI - At National Delegate Conference this year a rule change was passed changing the name of branch equality officers to equality co-ordinators.** The role remains the same but it was brought as a way of differentiating between branch equality officers and **the new role of workplace equality reps.**

### [Disabled Members Conference 2010](#)

**Saturday 30 October to Monday 1 November 2010**

**Telford International Centre**

**Closing Date for registration of Delegates: Friday 13<sup>th</sup> August 2010**

Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Members' Conference 2010

Friday 19 – Sunday 21 November 2010

City Centre Marriot Hotel, Bristol

Closing Date for registration of delegates: Friday 24 September 2010

Black Members' Conference 2011

Friday 21 – Sunday 23 January 2011

Crowne Plaza Hotel, Glasgow

Closing Date for registration of delegates: Friday 29 October 2010

UNISON Womens' Conference 2011

Thursday 17 – Saturday 19 February 2011

Harrogate International Centre

Closing Date for registration of Delegates: Friday 19 November 2010

3. **YOUR NORTH SOMERSET – a date for your diary.** Visitors can enjoy a host of entertainment at the annual Your North Somerset celebration at the Winter Gardens, in Weston-super-Mare, on **Sunday January 24 from noon to 4pm** “**Music and dance from a wide range of community groups will descend on North Somerset this month during a popular event to celebrate diversity**” The event, jointly hosted by the council, NHS North Somerset and Avon and Somerset Police, is now in its fifth year and aims to celebrate diversity and the many cultures and groups throughout North Somerset.

Attractions will include;-

- Traditional singing from Polish community groups
- Flamenco and Bangladeshi dancing.
- There will also be a photography competition arranged by Weston College.
- Food lovers can enjoy taste sensations from around the globe

- face painting, family craft activities, henna tattoos and eyebrow threading will be just some of the free activities on offer for people to try throughout the afternoon.

As well as entertainment, there will be information and advice on a range of issues, including community safety, employment and benefits. Staff from the council, health, housing, police, voluntary groups and other agencies will be on hand to answer questions.

Entry is free.

Kind regards

Vicky

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