

Role descriptor – GMB member of TUC equality committee

This guide is to help you decide whether to stand as a GMB candidate for a committee place.

What are the TUC equality committees?

There are four TUC equality committees:

- Race Relations
- Women Workers
- LGBT+ Workers
- Disabled Workers

There is also a Young Workers Forum for members 30 and under.

Each committee meets about 5 times a year. Meetings are usually on weekday afternoons at Congress House in central London.

What does being on the committee involve?

This is an active role. Members of the committee are expected to be active participants: attending committee meetings; reading committee documents; speaking at meetings; taking part in work between meetings; attending the annual TUC conference for the committee. GMB members thinking of putting themselves forward should consider if they have time to dedicate to the committee and whether they can get time off work to attend meetings.

Travel expenses are paid by GMB and members who take unpaid leave from work to attend meetings can claim a 'loss of working time' payment from GMB - £40 for a half day, £80 for a full day. Confirmation letter from your employer is needed.

How do I get on to a committee?

GMB nominates members to join the committees. Members can express their interest and then it's decided which members to nominate. All committee members must belong to the relevant group – e.g. be a disabled person for the Disabled Workers Committee.

Each committee has seats reserved for members of intersectional groups – e.g. the LGBT+ Committee has a seat for Disabled LGBT+ people, a seat for a Black LGBT+ person, etc – as well as general seats.

GMB nominees aren't guaranteed to get a place on the committee. Other unions may nominate members to the same seats. If there are more nominees than places there is an election at the relevant equality conference.

Contact your Regional Equality Officer or equalityinclusion@gmb.org.uk for more info.