

Role descriptor – GMB member of TUC equality committee

This guide is intended 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 which has different processes.

Each committee meets around 5 times a year. As of 2021, meetings are mostly Thursdays, 1-4pm. The TUC will confirm whether meetings are virtual or in person.

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 enough time to dedicate to the committee and whether they are able to get time off work to attend meetings.

Members who take unpaid leave to attend meetings are entitled to claim expenses and a 'loss of working time' payment from GMB. The current rate is £40 per half day.

How do I get onto a committee?

GMB nominates members to join the committees. GMB members can express their interest. It is then decided which members to nominate, depending on how many people are interested. 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.