

**Grow**  
**Build**  
**Change**



# Award Winners

## **GMB Congress 2019**

## ELEANOR MARX AWARD 2019

Award Winner: Shona Thomson,  
GMB Scotland

Shona was inspirational and the driving force in leading the fight for Equal Pay in Glasgow in 2018. At various times when the women felt there was little or no progress her tenacity and fight kept the campaign on track.

This ultimately led to the largest strike by women and men for Equal Pay in Britain, and made news both Nationally and Internationally in the media.

Shona was a key factor in organising the lead up to the Industrial Action, taking a lead role and supporting members during the Action, to the extent that we achieved the win and now some 14000 claimants will have claims settled.

## MARY MACARTHUR HEALTH AND SAFETY REPRESENTATIVE OF THE YEAR AWARD 2019

Winner: Wayne Kidger  
Midland and East Coast Region

Wayne is recognised for outstanding campaigning work at Nottingham City Homes. Wayne has challenged his employer on asbestos management, ensuring that procedures are in place for proactive management and controls whenever suspected asbestos is discovered. He was chosen to meet with a delegation of international visitors from Japan, to explain the NCH approach to asbestos management and how it protected the workforce.

Wayne has also managed to agree a collective approach to tackling worker mental health across all his employer activities. He has linked this to the pressures and presenteeism created by public sector cuts, and has developed campaigns that have helped to recruit many new GMB members.

He has taken the Chair of the Midlands Regional TUC Health and Safety Forum and the Joint Union H&S Committee, giving him a profile beyond his Local Authority across the whole of the Midlands. He is now a leading health and safety campaigner both within GMB and the wider community, and has used his links and experience with Union learning to promote training and development in all of his roles.

Runner-Up: Alan Law  
London Region

Alan is recognised for challenging management at Anglian Water to improve their health and safety structures. Alan's persistence and leadership resulted in Anglian Water trialling a Health and Safety Technician role, which proved so successful that the company now employs 7 full time Technicians. Alan's expertise within the business is well understood, to the point that he leads on consultation around risk assessments, and is the primary GMB point of contact for all incident investigations. This includes the issuing of permits to work, and liaison with contractors at all sites. In doing so he has played a crucial role in the recruitment of many new GMB members.

Alan has also taken the lead on mental health in the business, involving himself in training and investigation activity, and working with Time to Change. He has helped to develop and deliver training packages, and has been a genuine leader in challenging stigma in the workplace.

