



## **The role of an EIS delegate at STUC LGBT+ Workers' Conference**

### **Information and FAQs**

**DEADLINE:** Please note that the deadline for noting interest in attending this event is **Friday 20<sup>th</sup> March 2026**

#### ***General information on STUC equality conferences***

The EIS is affiliated to the STUC (Scottish Trades Union Congress), the umbrella body for trade unions in Scotland. Each year, the EIS sends a group of members, known as a delegation, to each of four equality conferences run by STUC. The four equality conferences that we send a delegation to are:

- LGBT+ Workers' Conference (usually in May)
- Black Workers' Conference (usually in October)
- Disabled Workers' Conference (usually in November)
- Women's Conference (usually in October)

These conferences make STUC policy on the relevant equality areas, and set the workplan for their respective committees for the coming year. They also give delegates a chance to debate motions, attend fringe meetings and workshops, attend social events, network with other trade unions, and, importantly, feed EIS perspectives into STUC policy-making, which in turn shapes their action plans. It is also a great opportunity to make new friends and gain support. The union is keen for members who have not attended before to have the chance to do so.

#### ***Why go?***

Attending these conferences gives an opportunity to feed EIS perspectives into STUC policy-making and ensure that the teacher voice is heard when educational initiatives, for example, are being discussed. They also offer professional learning and networking opportunities. People who have attended these conferences in the past have found them valuable, saying things like:

*"I found the conference to be affirming and inspiring, and as a geographically isolated member it was amazing to network with a range of professionals"*

*"I learned a lot from fellow delegates and also from the workshops, and it's good to build links with other unions."*

## **LGBT+ Workers' Conference 2026**

The Conference will take place on **Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> and Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> May 2026**, at the **Golden Jubilee Conference Hotel** in **Clydebank**.

The Conference will commence at approximately 10am (registration from 9:30am) on the Saturday morning and conclude around 1pm on the Sunday.

Single room accommodation will be reserved for all delegates at the Golden Jubilee Conference Hotel for the nights of Friday 15<sup>th</sup> May and Saturday 16<sup>st</sup> May 2026.

The EIS delegation will be able to meet for a buffet dinner on Friday 15<sup>th</sup> May, at the hotel.

There will be an online pre-meeting of the EIS delegation a couple of weeks prior to the conference, where we will discuss the business of the conference, decide on speakers for EIS motions, and meet other delegates.

### ***How do I become a delegate?***

Delegates are usually identified through Committees and sub-groups of EIS Council. Delegates to LGBT+ Workers' Conference will be drawn from members of the EIS LGBT+ Network, but any EIS member who identifies as LGBT+ can apply to attend. (NB: We seek to balance our delegations by personal demographics, sector, experience, etc., so unfortunately, not all applicants can be selected.) Members who have not been involved in any union activities before are especially welcome to apply.

If you are interested in being an EIS delegate to STUC LGBT+ Workers' Conference, you need to be nominated by your Local Association or College/University Branch. Please complete the [online nomination form](#), which will then be forwarded to your LA or Branch Secretary for approval.

If you have any questions about the form or nomination process, please contact Natalie Carroll: [ncarroll@eis.org.uk](mailto:ncarroll@eis.org.uk).

We will confirm the EIS delegation in mid-April, so you have plenty of time to make childcare or travel plans to enable you to attend if selected.

**\*\* The deadline for noting interest is Friday 20<sup>th</sup> March 2026\*\***

### ***What do I need to do if I am a delegate?***

As an EIS delegate you would be expected to:

- **Engage** in any pre-meeting conversations (usually by email) about speaking on motions, seconding other unions' motions, the content of speeches etc.
- **Attend** an EIS conference pre-meeting, usually held on the evening before the conference formally begins, at which there is a chance to talk through the conference agenda, and discuss the motions and any votes that might be expected, e.g. for committee places.
- **Participate** fully in the conference - debating, listening to guest speakers, attending fringe meetings and social events as appropriate.
- **Book** your own travel, and complete a travel expenses form so that the EIS can reimburse you for travel and subsistence costs incurred (NB: all meals at the conference are provided).
- **Notify** us if you have any access or dietary needs.
- **Speak** on an EIS motion, if agreed in advance or at the conference, putting forward EIS policy positions and trying to reflect teacher/lecturer experiences and perspectives on the issue; or second or support another union's motion if it's consistent with EIS policy; or speak in opposition to another union's motion if it contradicts the EIS position. Not all delegates will speak, however, especially if it is their first time attending.
- **Act** as a good ambassador for the EIS and its policies. Though the conference has many social elements, it is expected that delegates will conduct themselves in a manner consistent with a professional event, as representatives of the EIS in all conference forums, and in accordance with the EIS' Code of Conduct.

### ***What will the EIS do for me if I am a delegate?***

If you nominate yourself, the EIS Equality Department will confirm whether you have been selected to be part of the delegation.

If you are selected, we will:

- **Book** and **pay for** your accommodation and meals, and take receipt of your travel expenses forms.
- **Ensure** that the STUC have your information so the conference agenda and papers can be sent to you directly.
- **Assist** with the preparation of speeches during the run up to the conference, if needed.
- **Support** the delegation: a servicing official from the EIS will attend the conference and be on hand during the weekend to offer advice about EIS

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policy and the conference process, and assist with anything else you need to be able to participate in the conference.

***More information***

For more information or if you have any queries please contact Selma Augestad, National Officer, Equality:

E: [saugestad@eis.org.uk](mailto:saugestad@eis.org.uk)