



SHARON GRAHAM'S MANIFESTO

LET'S GET
BACK TO THE
WORKPLACE



PRIORITY

Campaigning Beyond the Workplace: Retired and Community

I will campaign with our Retired Members.

Too often our Retired Members have been left on the outside looking in. Instead of investing in concrete campaigns, the Union has at times treated our Retired Members as nothing better than voting fodder for elections. I will not make empty promises, but I will make sure that our retired membership is treated with respect, that their experience is put to use, and that their issues are not only heard but acted upon. In practical terms, this will mean creating a dedicated, ring-fenced budget for campaigning on issues that affect our retired members, for example, stopping the end of RPI.

I have worked with our retired members for over twenty years, both as a 27-year-old campaigning on Universal Benefits with Jack Jones and when leading the TTIP campaign that opposed the privatisation of our NHS. I have no doubt that, with the right support, our Unite members will be a critical national voice on behalf of retired people everywhere.



Sharon campaigning on Universal Benefits with Jack Jones



SHARON GRAHAM'S MANIFESTO

LET'S GET
BACK TO THE
WORKPLACE



If elected, I will:

- Introduce a **dedicated budget to deliver coordinated national campaigns** on the issues that matter to our Retired Members.
- Campaign against the replacement of the **Retail Price Index** with the far worse Consumer Price Index – a change with the potential to cut both pay and pensions.
- Deliver an **Adult Social Care campaign** to both organise the workforce and drive-up standards of care.
- Utilise the skills and experience of our retired members by setting up an **Industrial Mentoring Project**, so that they can provide help and support to less experienced Shop Stewards.
- Establish an **Annual Retired Members Conference**.



SHARON GRAHAM'S MANIFESTO

LET'S GET
BACK TO THE
WORKPLACE



PRIORITY

Campaigning Beyond the Workplace: Retired and Community

I will bring focus and clear goals to our work in the community.

In my view, for too long our community strategy has stagnated and has never achieved its full potential. There is an obvious clear link between the work of our community activists and the winning of industrial disputes. We need to establish clear identifiable budgets for Community that put decisions in the hands of community activists so that they are not just used in an ad-hoc way and then forgotten.

We should be working collaboratively across all sections of the Union to organise around collective issues within the local area, identify new leaders and build a sustainable, member-led presence. Wider societal issues like climate change, the crisis in affordable housing and the ongoing fight against racism should also form part of our work in the community. We should be delivering practical support to movements such as Black Lives Matters. Our Community Organisers will become facilitators devoted to building local leadership that can sustain action.

To sustain and reform our Community strategy, I will, if elected:

- Introduce dedicated budgets to deliver campaigns.
- Reinforce the link between community activism and the industrial disputes of the Union.
- Identify priority communities and organise both inside key workplaces and outside to help build a movement for change.
- Focus on building collective organisation within target communities.
- Work collaboratively to define a common working-class platform, incorporating our priorities for industrial, retired and community.
- Provide practical support to movements tackling wider societal issues such as climate change, the housing crisis and racism.

