

## UNISON Branch Interational Officer Elections

<b>Ryan Kellett</b>	<b>Dan Cooper</b>
<p>My name is Ryan, I am a Dispatcher and a UNISON steward in EOC, regularly supporting members with issues and concerns. I am also the disability lead for UNISON. Within my roles I have been involved in multiple work-streams within YAS, supporting projects and initiating change. I am seeking your vote for the branch international relations officer.</p> <p>I am passionate about the international officers' role with regards to influencing policy and change, both locally and internationally. As part of the LGBT community, I find it abhorrent that in 2022 there are still 71 countries where LGBT communities are treated differently or even face prison for living their life as they choose. Significant incidents such as the recent changes to anti-abortion laws in America are a step backwards for women's rights and will have repercussions globally. Human trafficking and modern slavery are an undercover but widespread issue in many countries, including the UK along with child exploitation and many other issues.</p> <p>I believe tackling these issues globally by strengthening bargaining rights along with education we can be a voice for these communities. As UNISON we need to stand together and ensure these international members are treated humanely and equally to ourselves.</p>	<p>Hi, I'm Dan Cooper, I've been a paramedic with YAS for 9 years and a Unison Steward for 4 years. I have an ambition to make our branch not just a local organisation that works for the good of our members, but one that takes its place in the wider trade union movement – nationally and internationally.</p> <p>To do this I'm constantly advocating for progressive change, for us to evolve how we organise to fight collectively for our members. I have raised petitions on issues, influenced policy through clinical directorate, convinced the branch to start members' meetings, raised collective grievances and wrote the first Unison notice of our pay campaign.</p> <p>I have also written an article on women's reproductive rights in the context of Roe Vs Wade in the USA, showing how vital it is that we fight to protect those rights over here.</p> <p>I was originally given this role of International Officer by vote at branch committee level. I requested this go out to the members, because I believe you should always have a say in the democracy of our union.</p> <p>Vote for me and I will continue to strive for a member-led union with stronger communication and democracy. Thanks.</p>