

ANGELA LYNES

UNISON Executive



Angela Lynes is a member of the national executive council of UNISON, the public sector union in the United Kingdom.

She has worked in local government for 20 years in the finance dept of Glasgow City Council and been an activist for 15 years.

She has represented the Scottish region on UNISON's NEC for seven years and is vice-chair of the international committee.

Lynes is married with two children.

For more information on UNISON, go to <http://www.unison.org.uk/>.

CARLOS GONZALEZ

SINTRAUNICOL President

Carlos Gonzalez is the president of the Union of University Workers of Colombia (SINTRAUNICOL). He is also an executive member of the CUT, the largest Colombian labour federation.

Gonzalez is a library worker at the University of Valle in Cali, Colombia. He also is on the board of NOMADESC and works closely with Berenice Celeyta in the human rights training program supported by CUPE BC, CUPE National's Global Justice Fund and CoDev, a Vancouver-based non-government organization.

As a trade union leader and human rights activist, Gonzalez has been the target of paramilitary and military threats and attacks. As a result, he travels

with a bodyguard and other protective measures.

In 2006, a secret plan was uncovered which named Gonzalez and other Cali-based trade union and community leaders. The plan sought to arrest the leaders on false charges of terrorism in order to stop their work and intimidate others.

SINTRAUNICOL is a national union that includes university workers and support staff as well as some teaching staff.

For more information on SINTRAUNICOL Cali, go to <http://sintraunicol.univalle.edu.co/comites.php>. For more on the national union, go to <http://pwp.007mundo.com/sintraunicol/mision.html>.

DAVID BOYS

PSI Utilities and Pensions Officer

David Boys directs work on the utilities of water, waste and energy for Public Services International. This includes advocacy in international organisations and assistance to unions in strategic planning and campaigning.

He helps union's block privatisation driven by development banks, multinational corporations, international organisations and donor governments.

Boys is a recognised authority in the water sector and is a member of the United Nations Secretary General's Advisory Board on Water and Sanitation (UNSGAB).

He has helped unions fight and defeat energy privatisation in Korea, Indonesia, Thailand, Canada, the United States, South Africa, Kenya, and elsewhere.

David also works on corporate social responsibility and investment issues with unions that have worker-trusted pension funds.

Prior to coming to PSI in 1998, he worked for 11 years with the Service Employees International Union in Washington, D.C.

For more information, go to <http://www.world-psi.org/>.

EDDIE MARKEY

PCS U.K



Eddie Markey is the branch secretary of a ministry of defence branch at the Public & Commercial Services Union in the United Kingdom.

He is one of two lead negotiation officers that deal with all consultation issues at branch level. He also facilitates all training for the other 14 activists on the branch executive committee. He is employed by the government but also works full-time for the union.

Markey is also the specialist instructional officer responsible for about 2,000 instructional officers across the UK. He is also responsible for structuring and delivering the training of the other 11 committee members.

The Trade Union Congress has accredited him as a tutor and as such he writes and delivers training for the PCS and for the TUC through East Riding College in the north of England.

For more on the PCS, visit <http://www.pcs.org.uk/>. For more information on his organiser role, go to <http://www.pcs.org.uk/Templates/Internal.asp?NodeID=886707>.

GLADYS DIKELEDI MAHLANGU

NEHAWU Provincial Chair, Mpumalanga Province

Gladys Dikeledi Mahlangu is the provincial chairperson for Mpumalanga Province in the National Education, Health and Allied Workers' Union.

She is also the provincial deputy chairperson of COSATU, South Africa's central trade union body.

She became involved in the union in 1992 when she first joined as a member. Later the same year she was elected as a shop steward.

Through her active participation in union activities and her commitment to serve the workers, she was elected as branch deputy chairperson in 1993. In 1994-1996, she was elected as provincial treasurer.

When NEHAWU realigned and launched regions in 2003, the comrade was elected regional chairperson and held that position until 2004. In 2004, she was elected as acting provincial chairperson and was confirmed in the 2005 provincial congress.

She is also an activist in the alliance structures and a champion of women's struggle for gender emancipation.

Gladys is married with two children.

For more information on NEHAWU, go to <http://www.nehawu.org.za/>.

GUY SLINGSBY

NEHAWU Researcher

Guy Slingsby is a researcher in organising and collective bargaining in the policy development unit of the National Education, Health and Allied Workers Union (NEHAWU) of South Africa.

In 1985, Slingsby refused to serve the Apartheid state as a conscript and left South Africa to become a political refugee in the United Kingdom. He was one of the first to return to South Africa in December 1990 when political organisations were un-banned.

In the early 1990s he was an active member of the rolling mass action committee in central Johannesburg. In 1993, he received a United Nations bursary to complete his BA degree at the University of Cape Town and went on to complete his MA honours degree in industrial sociology. He then relocated to Johannesburg and worked in the National Department of Land Affairs as a gender

researcher when he became active in NEHAWU as a branch shop steward.

As a NEHAWU member, he helped mobilise resistance against the wholesale privatisation of state assets and against job losses in the public service. He has been active in setting up community-based structures to mobilise residents in the inner city of Johannesburg to resist evictions and fight for service delivery.

He joined NEHAWU as a national organiser in the education sector in April 2005 and has since transferred to the policy development unit. He has been active in the launch of the "Public Service Delivery" campaign.

For more information on NEHAWU, go to <http://www.nehawu.org.za/>.

JUNEIA BATISTA

PSI Executive, Inter-Americas Region

Juneia Batista is the general secretary of the national confederation of municipal workers in Brazil and the inter-American regional co-president for Public Services International. She is also vice-president of the PSI women's committee.

She has been a trade unionist for 18 years and has been with PSI since 1993. She has been a social worker at the municipality of São Paulo, Brazil, since 1986.

She is militant in gender, racism and LGBT questions. In her local union, her work is focused on local organization issues and political education based on trade unionism history.

From 1991 to 1995, she travelled across São Paulo state to bring together the different local unions at the municipal workers' federation founding. She also participated at the national confederation of municipal workers founding in 2002.

Her hobbies are watching movies, reading Spanish and Portuguese colonization history and singing.

She is married and has an eight-year-old son.

For more information on her union, go to www.ispbrasil.com.br. For more on PSI: www.world-psi.org.

NORMA STEPHENSON

UNISON president



Norma Stephenson, a health care assistant was elected president in July 2007. She was previously vice-president. She joined UNISON early and became involved, holding virtually every union post since then.

At 18, Stephenson started work at the hospital near her home and has continued working in mental health care. "I enjoy working in mental health and feel that I do make a difference to the long-term care of my patients," she said.

A member of the UNISON national executive council for the past eight years, she was elected to the Labour party national executive four years ago. She chairs Labour's women, race and equality committee.

"My priority for the coming year will be raising the fight against racism," she said. "It is still a huge problem and should be given the red card. I also want the union to be stronger and I would like us to work better with the government. It's a new era for

me and we have a new era politically with Gordon Brown taking over as prime minister."

Norma spends any spare time cheering on Middlesbrough football club and doting over her four grandchildren.

For more information on UNISON, go to <http://www.unison.org.uk/>.

PETRUS MASHISHI

SAMSU President



Comrade Petrus Mashishi is president of the South African Municipal Workers' Union. He has been active in the trade union movement since the late 1970s.

He was key to the merger talk process between COSATU municipal affiliates that led to the launch SAMWU in 1987.

He was elected president of the union at this launch. He has been re-elected every term since then, and is about to lead the union into celebrating its 20th anniversary.

As well as helping to build SAMWU from a union with 15,000 to 120,000 members, Comrade Mashishi has contributed immeasurably to the organizational strength of the union. He has provided clear and decisive political direction, leading the union through three national strikes.

Comrade Mashishi has also remained an active and committed servicing shop steward in his Johannesburg constituency.

For more information on SAMWU, go to <http://www.samwu.org.za/>.

SANDRA VAN NIEKERK

SAMSU President

Sandra Van Niekerk has been the national education officer for the South African Municipal Workers' Union since the end of 2003.

For more information on SAMWU, go to <http://www.samwu.org.za/>.

In this position she is responsible for overseeing and co-ordinating the national shop steward, membership and leadership education programs.

She has had more than 12 years experience in the labour movement, starting in 1994 as an organizer for the Paper, Printing Wood and Allied Workers' Union.

She started working for SAMWU at the beginning of 1999 as a provincial educator in the Western Cape province.

Sandra has also been active on gender issues in the union, assisting with the building of gender structures and generally raising gender awareness among members and leadership.

PABLO MICHELI

ATE Secretary General

Pablo Micheli, is the secretary general of the Asociacion de Trabajadores del Estado (ATE), the state workers' union in Argentina.

He is also member of the national executive board of the Central de Trabajadores Argentinos, (CTA). And he is the secretary general of the Central Latinoamericana de Trabajadores del Estado (CLATE)

Micheli has been a labour activist for the past 25 years.

For more information about ATE, go to <http://www.ateargentina.org.ar/>.

RUBÉN GARRIDO

Argentina state workers' union (ATE)

Rubén Garrido is the elected director of international relations for Asociacion de Trabajadores del Estado (ATE), the state workers' union in Argentina.

He is also a member of ATE's national executive board and an ATE representative at the health care workers' exchange

Garrido has been a labour activist for the past 25 years.

For more information on ATE, go to <http://www.ateargentina.org.ar/>.