BAME OFFICER – BRANCH ROLE DESCRIPTION

The following description has been put together with input from the Race Advisory Committee and was also subject to the endorsement of the Equal Opportunities Committee.

INTRODUCTION
The BAME abbreviation stands for Black & Asian, Minority Ethnic.

General Conference 2014 agreed that the BAME Officer role will form part of the model branch constitution. The following is not an exhaustive list and is meant for guidance.

The role will include:

• Promoting issues affecting BAME workers to the branch committee
• Reporting to their branch/region on relevant issues
• Escalating relevant issues where necessary. This should involve collaborative work with the Equality Officer and if necessary the appropriate IR reps
• Acting as a general point of contact where necessary
• Providing information to BAME members (liaise with the branch on this accordingly)
• Attending Regional Equality Committee meetings, CWU Black Workers Conference, TUC or STUC Black Workers Conference (latter as a visitor if individual is not elected to attend via right through CWU elections)
• Involvement and support of CWU campaigns against the Far Right, Promoting rights of migrant workers etc

• Compilation of motions to CWU Black Workers Conference. Individual should be versed in protocol applied for submission of motions – liaise with branch for info if unsure
• Consideration to attend CWU Race Advisory Committee meetings as an observer; permission from Chair and National Officer should be obtained first. Also discuss with branch if there are any fiscal elements required to attend, as this will be met by the branch, so authorisation will be required before attending.

FURTHER RECOMMENDATION:
Arguably the role will be as interesting and varied as the BAME Officer makes it. Support from the Branch is also required to help bring value to the role. Black History Month (BHM) is an area where branches can launch local initiatives to help raise awareness around BHM and the valuable role played by BAME people in history. If the demographics are healthy enough, consideration should also be given to exploring the possibility of a branch BAME sub-committee.

Ultimately the Equal Opportunities Department and the RAC is committed to helping our BAME Officers, along with all the other equality strand branch officers. Any queries should be sent to equality@cwu.org.

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