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## Young activists on the rise

PCS's national campaign has helped galvanise a new wave of active young members, many of whom are getting involved in a union for the first time.

Younger activists are much needed in every union – to be a vital voice for the challenges their generation faces, and to lead our movement into the future. They've been helping smash ballot thresholds and get people out on their first ever strike, getting young members onto committees, and reinvigorating dormant branches.

Simmeron Katbamna is chair of the national young members' committee (NYMC). She says, "Educating and inspiring the next generation of reps and activists has never been so critical. Trade unions are the true vehicle for change."

Vice chair, Louis Radforth (HMRC), agrees: "Workers' rights are not a given."

### **A specific voice**

Young members also bring their own agenda. HMPO London and south east branch secretary Zac Vallely points out, "There are so many challenges being faced by young people in this economy. They can have an impact on the way that we approach problems as a union."

Jade Welburn (Moj Cleveland, Durham and Northumbria branch) adds, "I would say we have a different perspective – for example, to get a flat is three times more difficult than it was for my parents."

And the agenda is bigger than economics. For example, Rose Baker, NYMC equalities officer is driven by the issue of intersectionality in the fight for equality.

### **Solidarity socials**

Holly Cain, (HMRC, Benton Park View, Newcastle), is the branch's young members' officer and says, "I'm hoping to set up a WhatsApp group for people interested in being more active. It's important to maintain the sociability." That's

why Ben Mills in London helped set up PCS Pints. “It’s an informal space for young members to meet and be introduced to the network,” he explains.

#### **Get involved**

If you’re aged 27 or under you can join the [PCS young members’ network](#), the voice of young workers in PCS, wherever they are employed in the civil service and related areas. Ask your colleagues to [join PCS](#) and get involved.