

Gill George

Election Statement as a Candidate for a Health Sector seat on the new Unite Executive Council

I am standing for election because, I believe, I have made a difference as a member of the Amicus NEC — and can continue to do so on the new Unite Executive.

As a Speech and Language Therapist working with children with special needs, I understand the pressures health workers face. I am the Senior Unite Rep in my Trust, representing members from Estates to the CPHVA. As Staff Side Secretary, I lead Trust unions in joint working.

As a founding signatory of *'Keep Our NHS Public'*, I set up a successful local group. I speak at public meetings to defend the NHS up and down the country.

I spoke at the 2007 TUC in defence of the NHS.

As an active member of the Health Sector National Committee, I've drafted Union responses to Government consultations.

On the Amicus NEC I have ensured Health issues are not ignored. I successfully initiated:

- Affiliation and support for *'Keep Our NHS Public'*.
- An emergency motion to the TUC opposing Commissioning a Patient-Led NHS—forcing the Government into a significant retreat.
- Alerting the Union to secret Government plans to privatise primary care, leading to the formation of *'NHS Together'*
- Setting defence of the NHS as a campaign priority for the whole Union in 2008.
- Defending our professional organisations when moves were made to close them down.

Government policies introducing 'the market' to healthcare threaten us all.

In the last two years, we've lost 26,000 NHS jobs. We now have increased workloads and increased stress. Job satisfaction has plummeted. Reorganisation has become a way of life.

In the acute sector, the centralisation of pathology services, the threat to district hospital services, and the privatisation of diagnostic services more generally, **must** be opposed.

In PCTs, the separation of commissioning and provider services risks clinical decisions being driven by the market, not patient need, potentially leading to large-scale privatisation.

Community nursing, in particular, is already in crisis.

Our members in the NBS and MRC face an uncertain future.

In Scotland and Northern Ireland, the NHS is in better shape—but AfC implementation still drags on, and the review of community nursing threatens the professional roles of Scottish nurses.

And we've been dumped with a pay award less than half the rate of inflation.

Last September our Union agreed 'two years peace for Gordon Brown'! Health workers cannot afford this. While the Union has done much good work, our interests cannot be subordinated to alliance with a Labour Government.

On other issues: we have a diverse workforce in health—and fighting for equalities is central. Lay member involvement and control in the union are vital. Our reps and activists are our lifeblood.

I am a campaigner. My agenda is a simple one: I believe that our Union must belong to its members and must fight for its members. I give an absolute commitment to doing everything in my power to deliver on this.

Please also support Frank Wood.

<http://GillGeorge.wordpress.com>