

# Why I am standing for Vice President 2014-16

**O**ur Union is seeking nominations for the important role of Vice President. This election comes at a time of great challenges for us.

The coalition government has led an unprecedented attack on public sector workers and teachers. More than ever we need a united, campaigning Union.

I believe that through my role as Vice-Chair of Conference Business Committee, I have worked to significantly increase the involvement of different associations and divisions and put into practise the overdue changes that mean greater representation for women in shaping Union policies.

Key to winning unity has been identifying campaigns that play to the union's strengths and which win the active support of members.

For more than two decades I have worked closely with Christine Blower and Kevin Courtney developing just such campaigns. I would be really pleased to be part of their team at this challenging time.

## Teacher unity to defend education

Michael Gove is trying to fundamentally change education in England and Wales. He is aiming to create a system where schools compete for students and funding, and where teachers compete for pay.

Developing joint union campaigns is the best way to challenge this retrograde agenda.

Over the last two years the NUT has worked more closely with other teacher unions than ever before. We must expand on our historic agreement with the NASUWT.

Our aim must be one union for all teachers. I am confident that our action on pay and pensions and workload with the NASWUT will continue into 2014 and until we reach an acceptable settlement.

## Winning back teacher professionalism

For two decades since the introduction of league tables, Ofsted and national curriculum assessment,

our professional judgements have been increasingly marginalised.

However, I have been encouraged by the sprouting of grassroots initiatives by teachers talking about education such as the Primary Charter and TeachMeets. I believe the Union has an important role in making the voice of practitioners heard.

## A strong union depends on strong local associations

Our Union can be proud of the strength of its associations and divisions. Our activist base and the growing number of young teachers at our conferences is something to build on with confidence.

However, the government's attack on union facility time is a challenge to how the Union is organised.

If elected I will support campaigns to defend facilities time and to redirect Union resources to support associations and divisions that request help to build effective local structures, either because they are having facilities time cut or because the existing amount is inadequate.

**I would value your support in this election.**

*Yours sincerely,*  
**Philipa Harvey**

