

UNISON Welfare And Covid-19



There for You—How we can help

23rd April 2020

There for You is there for UNISON members who experience hard times. In the current coronavirus crisis, that's pretty much everyone.

As our welfare charity, **There for You** is helping more and more members who find that their limited income has been hit by the crisis.

For many members, asking for financial help from **There for You** is something they'd only consider on a rainy day they hoped would never actually arrive.

But it has.

For too many UNISON members in Wales, this pandemic means the rain is pouring down and they risk being flooded out. Some are losing work and have no income because they are on zero-hour contracts. Some are having their

hours cut or being made redundant without redundancy pay. Many are also facing a situation where someone in the household is self-employed and family income has drastically dropped.

Some members and their families are self-isolating. So members need emergency grants from **There for You**.

Helping members in this situation is what UNISON and our welfare charity is here for. **It's basic solidarity.**

Here are just some examples of what we've done so far and how we are able to help. If you need support from UNISON welfare then contact your UNISON branch for more information.



Cath applied for help with funeral costs for her partner.

The current coronavirus restriction mean there will only be a private cremation. But Cath is hoping to have a memorial service at a later date so that her young son can say goodbye properly to his dad.

There for You has made a grant to cover cremation costs, and an additional grant to help with living costs.

Gloria's mum passed away on 26 March due to COVID-19.

Gloria used all of her income to pay for healthy meals for her mum, and to travel a long way to support her, as care workers were not allowed to attend the property. This meant extending her overdraft and going into rent arrears due to increased and unforeseen expenditure.

Gloria's only sibling is self-employed and currently unable to work. They have no other family to call on for emotional or financial support.

There for You was able to provide help with funeral costs.

there
for you

supporting UNISON members
when life gets tough

DOMESTIC ABUSE AND COVID-19

For many people, the current situation is stressful but for those experiencing domestic abuse, there is also a risk to social isolation. Please be assured, anyone experiencing domestic abuse during this time will be supported. If you are concerned for your own or someone else's immediate safety, ring the police on 999. Other services continue to run throughout this period.

Live Fear Free 24 hour, 7 days a week help and advice about violence against women, domestic abuse and sexual violence

<https://gov.wales/live-fear-free>, email on info@livefearfreehelpline.wales or text **07860 077333**, as well as accessing their main helpline on **0808 8010800**.

Cardiff Women's Aid **02920 460566** is a 24/7 service providing a range of services for women experiencing domestic abuse including refuge space, safety planning, advocacy, therapy, counselling and education programmes.

Respect offers a helpline for perpetrators who want help to stop. Contact them on **0808 802 4040** (Mon-Fri, 9am to 5pm), email info@respectphoneline.org.uk or via a webchat: respectphoneline.org.uk Respect also have a helpline for male victims of domestic abuse contact **0808 801 0327** (Mon-Fri 9am to 5pm), email info@mensadviceline.org.uk or webchat from their website mensadviceline.org.uk.

The Dyn Project is a scheme run by Safer Wales providing support to me who are experiencing domestic abuse from a partner contact **0808 8010**

321 (Mon-Fri, 10am to 4pm).

Bawso helpline is a 24 hour service available at **0800 731 8147** providing specialist services for BME people affected by domestic abuse and all forms of violence including "honour" based violence, female genital mutilation, forced marriage and human trafficking. Information about these are available on their website bawso.org.uk.

Galop are an LGBTQ+ anti-violence charity who have a specialist national LGBTQ+ domestic helpline with a trans-specific service on Tuesdays between 1pm-5pm. Their helpline is **0800 999 5428** (Mon-Fri 10am to 5pm) and their webchat service is available at galop.org.uk/domesticabuse (Wednesdays and Thursdays, 5pm to 8pm).

New Pathways offer a counselling service for people who have experienced rape or sexual abuse regardless of gender or age. Information is available on their website newpathways.org.uk. They can be contacted on **01685 379310** or at enquiries@newpathways.org.uk.

Childline **0800 1111** is a 24/7 confidential helpline run by the NSPCC for children and young people experiencing or witnessing abuse.