

ii) Motion – UNISON & Gambling

1. UNISON's magazine to members is an important part of the UNISON engaging with our membership. It gives members important information and a sense of the kind of union we are. It is understandable that UNISON allow other organisations to pay to have their publicity distributed with our publicity. These advertising materials inevitably reflect on UNISON so should be consistent with the principles of trade unionism.

2. The Norfolk County Branch do not believe the magazine or any UNISON publication should be used to distribute any materials linked to gambling whether these are for external organisations or the There For You charity. Gambling is becoming an increasingly prevalent addiction that should not be encouraged in any way. For the sake of this motion, gambling is not deemed to include raffles but includes all other forms of pursuit where a financial stake is paid with the chance of winning a higher pay out.

3. In a 2007 study Dr Mark Griffiths for the British Medical Association reported that there were over 300,000 problem gamblers in the UK, just under 1% of the adult population. Problem gambling is defined as "gambling that compromises, disrupts or damages family, employment, personal or recreational pursuits (Budd Commission 200, Sproston et al 2000 and Griffiths 2004).

4. Research has shown that availability of opportunities to gamble and the incidence of problem gambling are linked. Worldwide research also shows that low income is one of the most consistent factors associated with problem gambling. Griffiths research suggest problem gambling increases when gamblers participate in more gambling activities. Another significant factor is accessibility of gambling opportunities.

5. Given the research the Norfolk County Branch does not believe that UNISON should be seen to be encouraging gambling in any way. We call on the Branch to take forward the following as part of a motion to National Delegate Conference;

1. UNISON at national & regional level will cease to use the members magazine as a vehicle to advertise any gambling activities including lottery's.
2. UNISON at national and regional level will not use the UNISON website or any social media networks to advertise gambling including lottery's
3. For this policy to be adopted by the end of 2020

Moved by Eammon Burgess