

STUC Youth Conference

By Jewel Tan, trainee pharmacist in NHS Scotland, PDA member, and Alumni of the University of Sunderland



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I enjoyed attending the Annual STUC Youth Conference representing the PDA. This is my first time ever attending a conference. I went to the conference having zero knowledge of what motions are and how they work, hence this has been a good exposure to what conferences are like. With this, I have learned plenty during the two days.

There were many fellow young trade union members who were very inspiring and engaging. The work to protect and promote the collective interest of workers is definitely not a walk in the park, and I am grateful to the people who are willing to put in this work.

The conference has opened my eyes to the work that is done for workers to have better working terms and conditions. Most importantly, what I had taken home was that there is power in unity and solidarity.

Attending the conference made me appreciate even more the importance of trade unions, which aim to protect and advance the collective interests of workers and their families. I have personally faced issues in the workplace and the PDA has been of great support in those situations.

There were many discussions about the constitution of the STUC and young worker engagement in their unions, sexual harassment in the workplace, issues affecting international workers, challenges with regard to transport, cost of living crisis, pay and conditions, housing, and climate. These themes are the common struggles that young workers face and the conference was a platform to bring light to these issues in a mature, constructive, and problem-solving manner. I am grateful for the opportunity to attend the conference and contribute to the improvement of working conditions for young workers.