Islam Faqir

My name is Islam Faqir, colleagues know me as Izzy, I have worked for YAS for over 21 years, and I have been the Unison lead for BME and Disability for several years and it is with great sadness I am stepping down from these roles I am also stepping down from the Vice Chair of the YAS BME network.

Colleagues may have seen the recent staff update about my retirement, it failed to mention that this was due to ill health. There are things which occurred whilst employed by YAS that has an extremely negative effect on my health and wellbeing. I would like to go further and tell my story however I am prevented from doing so due to legal reason.

I would like to say staff networks have their place in supporting staff morale however as I found when it comes to standing up for you and holding people to account it is only the unions who do this, in my case Unison has stood up for me and held people to account. Unison YAS branch have called out those who put me in a position where it destroyed my health in particular Kevin Fairfax & Bryn Webster supported me at a point where my health was destroyed, I was in hospital for 2 months where I had to have chemotherapy and dialysis.

I had last visit to HQ on the 10th November to say goodbye, I went in to the EOC (Emergency Operations Centres) management suite where I wanted to hand in my uniform, unfortunately this proved to be an upsetting experience however I want to thank Unison YAS, Claus Madsen, Rod Barnes, Suzanne Hartshorne, Kevin Fairfax, Kirsty Lowery-Richardson and Mandy Wilcox for supporting me, also Cath Cox who I met outside just before leaving wishing me well and to everyone else who has wished me well, thank you.

I would also like to say I am grateful for the support BME staff have given me especially the staff from Bradford who have supported me.