What is a trade union?

Why should I join one?
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A trade union is an organisation of workers formed to protect and improve their working conditions.

Unions use the collective strength of their membership to negotiate for fair pay and decent working conditions.

Trade unions provide representation to support their members, ensuring all workers are treated fairly by their employers.

The Royal College of Nursing is the world’s largest trade union for nursing.
Why should I join one?

To protect yourself and to strengthen the power of the collective voice for nursing.

• Free employment and legal advice.
• Individual advice and support in your employment.
• Protection and representation at work.

Being a member of a union really matters.
Local representation and support

Local RCN representatives work in nursing and share your experiences in your workplace. They stand up for you and for nursing.

1. RCN Learning representatives support your ambitions by promoting learning and career development.

2. RCN stewards protect your rights, ensuring fair treatment on all employment related matters.

3. Safety representatives play a vital role in ensuring you operate within a healthy and safe working environment.
The RCN is a trade union and professional association. This puts us in a unique position to stand up for nurses and health care support workers, and work to improve terms and conditions and the working environment for members, which ultimately leads to better patient care.

We challenge when we see things that are unfair or do not seem right.

We negotiate over pay, terms and conditions.

With your support, the RCN campaigns for improvements in the workplace – making the working environment safer for you and your patients.
Join the RCN

We are different from any other health care union. We are the only single trade union for nursing, which gives us a unique position to lobby on behalf of nurses and health care support workers.

Many of our staff have a nursing background and have an understanding of the issues affecting you in your workplace.

Receive expert legal advice from the largest team of nursing-specialist lawyers of any union in the UK.

We provide a wide range of world-class learning resources, including the largest nursing library and e-library in Europe.

When you need us, **RCN Direct** is available to all members providing help and advice at the end of a phone.
Who can join the RCN?

Whether you work full or part time or are an agency worker, you can join the RCN.

Membership is available to:
- All nurses
- Midwives
- Health care assistants
- Assistant practitioners
- Student nurses
- Student midwives
- Trainee nursing associates
We are the largest nursing-specific professional trade union in the world with more than 435,000 members.

To find out more...

Please visit www.rcn.org.uk
or
call RCN Direct on 0345 772 6100