



NEATH PORT TALBOT LOCAL GOVERNMENT BRANCH NEWSLETTER

Room 254, 1st Floor, Port Talbot Civic Centre. Port Talbot SAI3 IPI

Tel: 01639 763820

OCTOBER 2019

Your branch website: www.nptunison.org.uk

Email us: unison@npt.gov.uk



Search for NPT UNISON

EXTINCTION ALERT

Don't let our public services become extinct...



Neath Port Talbot UNISON have arranged a "Question Time" in Port Talbot Chambers

Friday 11th October 2019 at 1pm.

#SaveOurServices #extinctNPT2019 #CouncilsCan #fairfunding #localservicechampions





The workforce of NPTCBC have been granted paid time off to attend the session (with due diligence given to service needs - please speak to your Line Manager) .

New for our newsletter!

We will be sending future newsletters out via email to members that we have an email address for.

You will have the option to request a hard copy if you would like one. All other members will still receive a paper copy in the post. However, it would help to have email contact details for all our members, it saves on postage and trees!

Please update your details using the form inside!

> If you missed the T-Rex at last years event ... he is back again and is bringing his friends! So if you have any DINOSAUR MAD children pop along to the Civic Centre Square to meet them!



Dates for vour diary



MONDAY 3 FEBRUARY 1

4.30pm

12.30pm

12.00pm

WEDNESDAY 5 FEBRUARY 6.00am 12.30pm

THURSDAY 6 FEBRUARY 12.30pm

FRIDAY 7 FEBRUARY

NPTCBC THE QUAYS 2.30pm

Rooms 3&4

NPTCBC NEATH CIVIC **CENTRE Rooms A&B**

NPTCBC PORT TALBOT CIVIC

CENTRE Chambers

NPTCBC SRC Room 20 NPTCBC NEATH CIVIC CENTRE Rooms A&B

CELTIC LEISURE NEATH **TOWN HALL Main Hall**

NPTC GROUTH NEATH **CAMPUS**

Dear Colleagues / Friends,

I can't believe we are into September already, where has the time gone!

Your fantastic branch representatives have been 'busy bees' supporting members over this last few months. We have attended lots of sickness meetings advocating, supporting members whist on sick leave, we have also represented members in grievance hearings, management of change issues, disciplinary hearings and have spoken to thousands of members who requested advice and reassurance.

We are now coming into our busy period regarding our campaigning for a better than average budget settlement from the Welsh Government for 2020/2021. We require your support. This campaign is the most important thing we are going to do together. Our campaigns over the past years have directly resulted in a better than expected settlement giving the council extra money- this reduces redundancies, keeps services in-house and protects our terms and conditions. VITAL TO US ALL.

We need your contributions and support in this campaign, we are clearly stronger together as one voice.

We have again arranged our petition (information to follow) and our excellent Question Time Panel Event on Friday 11th October 1pm to 2pm (paid



time off to attend) at Council Chamber Port Talbot Civic Centre, we have a number of politicians attending (more information to follow).

Please please attend to show unity and also have your say on how more money will assist your roles and protect services and jobs. If you want to be involved in our campaign please do not hesitate to contact me, we will always endeavour to advocate on your behalf and will continue to work in partnership with the Authority to resolve issues informally. Partnership, is key to resolving concerns before they escalate out of control.

Thanks again for your support and membership, I appreciate your valued comments. Our branch will always be a member led union with you at its heart.

Thanks again, MARK FISHER, Branch Chair

HAVE YOU HEARD? VOLUNTARY REDUNDANCY SCHEME TO RUN INDEFINITELY

The Council has in place a Voluntary Redundancy (VR) Scheme, which is used to help prevent compulsory redundancies. Unlike previous years, where there has been a 'window of opportunity' to express an interest, the latest VR Scheme will be available on an ongoing and indefinite basis. There will be no closing date.

To ensure that all expressions of interest are dealt with in a timely manner, anyone interested in leaving under VR must complete two steps before their expression of interest can be progressed:

- Step 1 you must confirm with your Head of Service that your post can be 'lost' or a bumped redundancy facilitated.
- Step 2 you must discuss a leaving date with your Head of Service in order for service needs to be considered.

An expression of interest does not guarantee that VR will be agreed, nor does it mean that you will be obliged to take VR. In some services, there

may be a requirement for a reduction in employee numbers linked to budget proposals, whilst in other services there may be limited opportunities for employees to leave under VR.

If you have previously expressed an interest in VR, you will need to have a discussion again with your Head of Service.

If you need any help or advice on the scheme- it can look quite complicated when you first look - give the UNISON Office a ring and we will be able to help.



REPORTS OF MODERN SLAVERY INCREASE BY 30% IN WALES



New data from the National Crime Agency shows a 30% increase in reports of modern slavery cases across Wales in 2018. The statistics show there were 251 referrals of potential cases of modern slavery last year compared to 193 in 2017. Of the 251, 125 were children and 126 adults.

Many victims of modern slavery come to the UK to try and escape abuse but then become vulnerable to exploitation.

60% of the reported cases were for labour exploitation.

Most of the 251 cases involved victims whose country of origin is the UK but victims originally from Vietnam, Sudan and Albania were also reported.





The 30% increase in 2018 follows a 56% increase the year before that.

There are more people in slavery today across the world, than in the entire 350 year history of the transatlantic slave trade and slavery in Wales is on the rise. 60% of the referrals in Wales in the last year were for exploitation at work. That's why trade unions like UNISON have a major role in the fight against modern slavery. We have been lobbying employers to sign up to the Welsh Government's Code of Practice for Ethical Employment in Supply Chains which should ensure workers are treated fairly and no-one is exploited.

Kebba Manneh, Chair of UNISON Cymru/Wales Black Members Group, First Minister Mark Drakeford and Stephen Chapman, Welsh Government's Anti-Human Trafficking Co-ordinator, spoke

about the statistics at a slave trade remembrance event in Butetown recently. The event was organised by UNISON Cymru Wales.

"Slavery is a crime against humanity and we will use all the tools we have at our disposal to fight it. Wales took a lead in the UK, creating the role of an Anti-Slavery Co-ordinator, and Wales introduced the Code of Practice on ethical employment in supply chains. We must do more to combat modern slavery and I intend to strengthen legal protections in the forthcoming Social Partnership Act." - Mark Drakeford

Our Branch Assistant Secretary/Equalities Officer Sam Alkarnaz attended the inspiring event.

#RememberingSlavery #ModernSlavery





Supporting a Woman's Right to Choose

Dear Member,

UNISON believes that a woman's right to choose with regards to abortion is fundamental to her political, social and economic equality. Control over whether, when and how many children to have is crucial to control over every other aspect of a woman's life.

The 1967 Abortion Act gave women limited access to safe abortions, but only under specific grounds and if signed off by two doctors.



The Offences Against the Person Act 1861, which made abortion a criminal offence, was still law in Northern Ireland until July 2019. MPs passed a cross-party amendment compelling the government to bring forward regulations to decriminalise abortion in Northern Ireland. The amendment also authorises the Secretary of State to make regulations on abortion, which must come into force by March 2020.

This changes everything. Now the case for full decriminalisation of abortion across England, Scotland and Wales can be made.

The UK government is now obligated to bring forward secondary legislation to decriminalise abortion in Northern Ireland, and to legalise abortion provision. This is the beginning of the end of the abortion ban in Northern Ireland.

The ban that has seen thousands of women make lonely journeys to England, Wales and Scotland for abortions that are available to women in the rest of the UK. Those without the means to fund their own travel and accommodation had the option of either carrying an unwanted pregnancy, or risk facing life in prison if caught buying abortion pills online.

There will of course be more battles over this issue. There will still be battles over the shape of legislation, provision, access and medical oversight. Yet, we're confident that they are winnable battles now that the main and fundamental principle has at last been recognised. Women will no longer be denied the right to control her body.

Women must have access to unbiased, unprejudiced, clinically sound and researched information on all pregnancy choices, including abortion free from interference and intimidation.

The National Women's Committee is encouraging



branches and regions to continue to work with and support affiliated and sympathetic organisations such as Abortion Rights UK, Alliance for Choice and the Back Off campaign in highlighting and defending a women's right to choose until this legislation is in place.

Thank you for supporting women's rights to choose.

UNISON National Women's Committee

Your BRANCH at the Local Government and National Delegate Conferences 2019, Liverpool.

From 16th – 21st June, UNISON held an active and engaging conference with delegates from all over the UK debating UNISON policy for the forthcoming year.



Branch delegates lobbied all visitors and delegates to conference to gain support for our proposed rule amendments that were being put to the conference floor on the Thursday. This created a great deal of debate, and whilst we didn't achieve the aims set out, we have garnered more support and will have the opportunity to resubmit next year along with recommendations for other amendments to be submitted in conjunction with our own.



For many years UNISON members at Neath Port Talbot "faith" schools have not had the luxury of enjoying the National Joint Committee terms and conditions of employment, and when the branch consulted and/or balloted, they were excluded from that process.















We are exceptionally pleased that recent negotiations have concluded with satisfactory outcomes for all members, including a three year pay protection deal – a privilege afforded to us already on NJC terms and conditions many years ago. - Jane Gebbie, Branch Secretary

An a-meer-zing day out with UNISON NPT.

The branch and their guests enjoyed their summer trip to Folly Farm in July. They even witnessed one of the rarest sights in Wales – the sun! The coach was jam packed, families eager to visit Hugo the Lion and his friends. The day was spent visiting the wonders of the world right on our doorstep. We all had a wonderful day and each member returned to the coach with a smile on their face. We hope to see you all again. To hear more about our events, please feel free to ring the office on 01639 763820 or email unison@npt.gov.uk









Want to do something more?

Help your colleagues and other members by becoming a UNISON rep or workplace contact. Being a UNISON workplace rep gives you the opportunity to:

- make a positive difference to people's work lives
- learn new skills and meet new people
- ► help create a fairer society



LOCAL GOVERNMENT SERVICE GROUP EXECUTIVE

This is a report of the main issues discussed at the last LGSGE meeting and policy seminar, on 16th & 17th July 2019. We hope you find it interesting.

UNISON has commissioned the Centre for Health and Public Interest to analyse the flow of money in the residential care system. We are hoping that the report will inform the debate about the funding of the care system and challenge the orthodoxy of widespread private sector provision.

A seminar for care workers will be held on the 9th December. The seminar will feature contributions from the successful Birmingham homecare worker strikers alongside noted academics. There will also be workshops on topics such as violence at work, achieving safe staffing levels, and how care workers are affected by benefit changes.



On average, local government spending on services has fallen by 21% in real terms since 2009/10. These cuts have not been equally distributed across the country, and were larger in more deprived than more affluent areas. This pattern of cuts meant that spending per person in the most deprived fifth of councils had fallen from 1.52 times to 1.25 times the level in the least deprived fifth between 2009-10 and 2017-18.

Cuts also varied significantly across services, with councils prioritising services like adult social care (down 5%) and children's social care services (up 10%). In contrast spending on children's and youth centres was down more than 60%, planning & development and housing down more than 50% and highways & transport and cultural and leisure services down more than 40%.

There is an urgent need for clarity on how councils will be funded in the future. Council tax and business rate revenue will be insufficient to keep pace with growing demand, never mind reverse the damage done by austerity, particularly in less affluent areas. The ongoing Fair Funding review must ensure that money is allocated equitably between councils and not used to redirect from councils in traditional Labour held areas to Conservative-run county councils.

UNISON issued a survey on violence, harassment and abuse of library workers to all library members, branches and activists in the UK in June. The findings have been used to inform the Service Group's response to a recent government consultation which called for evidence on violence and abuse toward shop staff. The consultation recognised that violence, abuse and harassment affects a range of people providing a service to the public, not just those in the retail sector. The findings will also be used by UNISON's library campaign to call for safer libraries for everyone and to further push the union's work on the Violence at Work Charter.

As part of the current research project with Cardiff University into volunteering, all UK branches, activists and members were sent a survey. Findings are being analysed. As part of this project, UNISON has issued a further Freedom of Information request to all UK councils asking for details on library closures.

New Menopause Activist Guidance

Jane Gebbie, your Branch Secretary and Regional Women's Group Chair, has run a variety of training sessions to raise awareness of the menopause. The sessions have been for women, and also for managers, including occasional male-only management training sessions. Jane has also organaised informal drop-in sessions to provide advice and guidance. Menopause

Rather than agree another new separate policy on menopause, UNISON felt it was more meaningful for the employer to agree to use a manager's guidance note that is attached to the workplace's Maximising Attendance at Work policy covering sickness absence. This will help to ensure sympathetic treatment of individual circumstances.

2019 PARASPORTS CAMP



This year's **'Parasports Camp'** for children with disabilities has once again been a great success. **Well done to all**

those UNISON members who were involved.

Derek Jones, UNISON Rep and the Council's Physical Activity & Sports Service (PASS) Sports Development Officer said "We are very grateful for the support from Admiral Group - not only did they provide financial assistance but they allowed seventy employees to volunteer their services throughout the weeklong festival, which

was held at Margam Country Park.

"This was the 19th year of the festival, next year we will celebrate the 20th anniversary, which will coincide with the 2020 Tokyo Olympic and Paralympic Games. The children were treated to a visit from Welsh rugby international Ellis Jenkins."

Festival organizer Michelle Lewis, PASS Disability Sports Development Officer said, "Parasports Camp this year attracted over 75 children. Activities on offer included canoeing, archery, cycling, judo, gymnastics and climbing. All the children are encouraged to take part in the

many activities on offer at the festival, which will hopefully give them the confidence to carry on exploring new activities."

In January your UNISON
Branch will be supporting
one of the event
categories at the Neath
Port Talbot CBC PASS
Celebration Awards
Evening.



At the Princess Royal Theatre

Further information contact Derek Jones d.i.jones@npt.gov.uk 01639861101/07767620869



PHYSICAL ACTIVITY & SPORT SERVICE
GWASANAFTH GWEITHGARWCH CORFFORDL A CHWARAEON

RECENT FEEDBACK FROM MEMBERS...

"I would like to take this opportunity to thank Jane Gebbie and Debbie John for their support on the stage 1 formal medical interview. I would like to say that Debbie was very professional and conducted herself well, she made me feel confident and at ease. I would like to say a big thank you again."

"Just wanted to do a quick email to say how great the trip to Folly Farm was on the weekend. Really well organised and nothing was too much trouble for Hannah, who was professional and polite at all times (and smiling, even at 8am in the morning!!!)."





"I have recently used UNISON to help me through a very difficult situation in my place of work. Mark Fisher has been so helpful, he was very professional, supportive and had an excellent understanding of the position I was in. Without his help I wouldn't have pursued my case and would not have achieved the excellent outcome that we got. I would strongly recommend being a member of a union to support you in any problems that may occur at your workplace.

Without Mark's help, I would probably be unemployed."

"I just wanted to thank you for your help with getting my current permanent job written into the structure."

TT'S CETTING NOT IN HERE....

UNISON has called for strong action on climate change for many years. And now, thanks to Extinction Rebellion, Greta Thunberg and the school climate strikes, the climate emergency is finally starting to get the attention it needs and deserves. **Get involved 'cos this planet is the only one we've got - help green up your office.**

Here are our top 12 ideas to get you started:

- 1. Remind people in your office to turn off computers, unplug phone chargers and turn off lights each evening.
- **2.** Talk to us about raising environmental issues with your management. For example, you could submit a motion at your AGM to reduce the amount of plastic your canteen uses.
- 3. Contact your pension scheme and ask them to divest from fossil fuels
- **4. Find out if there is a ride-to-work scheme,** promote it, or consider finding a keen cyclist to run a session on bike safety or maintenance for would-be/new cyclists.
- 5. Volunteer with the Branch Green Officer (see back page)!
- **6. Encourage your workplace to make more use of tele and video-conferencing**, rather than getting staff to travel to attend meetings.
- 7. The rearing of cattle is a massive contributor to greenhouse gas emissions. Encourage your team to have a meat-free lunch day once a week there are plenty of recipes online.
- **8. Check your workplace recycling scheme is being used correctly** are people recycling what they can, and putting things in the right bins? And if there isn't a recycling scheme, why not help to set one up?
- **9.** But before you have to recycle your paper, just **check if you really need to print**. Sending documents electronically or, even better, having a chat can be so much greener!
- **10. Your workplace may have a sustainability team** how might the union work with it? If not why not ask if you can start one up?
- 11. Joining the UK's biggest union doesn't need to cost the earth. You can use Easy Joiner (easy.unison.org.uk) on the web to recruit new members instead of paper forms.
- 12. Take your plant to work! Desk plants not only make your office feel more homely and help oxygenate the room, they also absorb pollutants from the air.

NPT Community Chest: £1500 for local clubs

Are you a member of a sports club, or an organization that promotes physical activity, if so can your club use £1500?

Community Chest is a Sport Wales initiative and managed locally. The Neath Port Talbot panel have awarded over £1.5 million to local clubs since its inception. Derek Jones, UNISON Rep and the Council's (PASS) Development Officer, said this funding has allowed new clubs to be formed and existing voluntary organizations the opportunity to expand and improve.

The purpose of this Sports Wales initiative is to make a difference to local sport and physical activity opportunities that are additional to what is already in place and would not be possible without a grant, to increase participation, improve standards of performance and encourage more people to become physically active more often.

Some of the main areas of criteria are: Recruitment of volunteers, Coach education (qualification and up skilling of coaches), First aid costs, New additional club/team start-up costs, Non-personal items of equipment, Publicity, Community club/school links.

With priority areas in: Black and minority ethnic populations, disability (inclusion), women and girls, children, young people and families experiencing poverty, areas of deprivation.

If anyone is already involved or interested in becoming involved in a voluntary sporting organization or club and requires any information or assistance on how to fill in the form they can contact Derek on **01639 861101** or **0776 762 0869** or **d.i.jones@npt.gov.uk**. Closing dates for applications are 29th October 2019 and 14th January 2020.





NEATH PORT TALBOT UNISON *Branch Special*

Victorian Christmas Market 2019 Gloucester Quays Saturday 23rd November unison@npt.gov.uk 01639 763820

Roll up Roll up for the Victorian Christmas Market returns for 2019!

A staggering half a million people visited Gloucester Quays during the 11-day event in 2018 and this year aims to be just as popular. This year there will be a whole host of stalls selling, food, drink and bespoke gifts not available on the high street alongside a line-up of entertainment brimming with cheeky Victorian Characters. This is the family event of the year with the Open-Air Ice Rink also returning, we really hope you can join us. Food and drink including hot food and street food to go will be available from the surrounding regions including all your seasonal favourite tipples and tastes.

- Tickets are available to purchase by NPT unison members only (this trip is aimed at adults, each member can purchase maximum 4 tickets), ticket prices are £5.00 for UNISON members and £10 for non-members.
- Ticket includes return coach travel to Gloucester.
- Payment by cheque only (CASH WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED) made payable to Unison NPT. Cheques will be returned if your application is unsuccessful.
- Tickets are first come first served; apply early as numbers are very limited.
- Pick up 8.30am approx. return to pick up point 8.00pm approx.

Closing date for applications: 12 Noon on Friday 1st November 2019.

NO APPLICATIONS WILL BE ACCEPTED AFTER THE CLOSING DATE

Eligibility Requirements You must be a UNISON member on 2nd September 2019. You must be a UNISON member on the date of the trip. No applications will be ACCEPTED without PROOF of membership. You are responsible for your behavior during the trip. Full eligibility requirement on request!

Please complete the application below for tickets and return to UNISON OFFICE, c/o Civic Centre, Port Talbot, SA13 1PJ

NPT Unison Christmas Trip TICKET APPLICATION FORM 2019									
MEMBER DETAILS									
NAME: Unison Membership No:									
ADDRESS:									
POST CODE:									
Contact Number:									
Emergency Contact Name and Number:									
Mobility Issues: Pick up point (please tick) Neath Train Station Port Talbot (Age Cymru)									
Tickets Required:	Name (s):	Number of tickets:	TOTAL:						
Member (s)									
		(£5.00)	£						
Non-Member Adult (s)		(£10.00)	£						
·		(£10.00)	r						
			Total						
	Price £								
PLEASE COMPLETE THIS FORM FULLY									
I agree to abide by UNISON rules and the rules and eligibility requirements, terms & conditions & Health & Safety requirements of this event. I understand that if my conduct is unacceptable at this event I may be subject to sanctions.									
Section (Authorized Substitution (Authorized									
Signed Print Name									
Date									



Join us for our Christmas Cinema Party 2019!

Due to the popularity of last year's event, we will be holding two screenings this year—one at 12 noon and one at 3pm (film to be confirmed)

Open to UNISON member's children, adopted, foster children and grandchildren under the age of 16, subject to availability. A £5 charge for adult tickets is applicable

Cheques only made payable to Unison NPT - CASH WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED

Closing date for applications: 12 Noon – Monday 18th November
NO APPLICATIONS WILL BE ACCEPTED AFTER THE CLOSING DATE OR WHEN
MAXIMUM SPACES HAVE BEEN FILLED.

Eligibility Requirements

leave the event.

- You must be a UNISON member on 16th August 2019 and have at least 2 months unbroken membership at date of application.
- You must be a UNISON member on the date of the party.
- All children must be accompanied by the member or member's partner for the duration of the party.
- Any adults or children who abuse this event will be banned from future events.
- You are responsible for both your child's and your behaviour during the event.
- Full eligibility requirement on request!

Tickets include - 1x Cinema ticket, 1x JR popcorn, 1x Small drink, 1x Hotdog or Nachos

Name: UNISON Membership No: Address: Post Code: Contact number: Email address: Name Adult/Child £5 enclosed? (per Hot dog or adult ticket) Nachos? I2pm or 3pm PLEASE COMPLETE THIS FORM FULLY AND INCLUDE CHOICE OF FOOD AND SCREENING TIME I agree to abide by UNISON rules and the rules and eligibility requirements, terms & conditions & Health & Safety requirements of this event. I understand that if my children's or my conduct is unacceptable at this event I may be subject to sanctions and/or as ked to

Date -----

If your membership details have changed please help us by completing this form. Every form returned has the chance to win one of 20 travel mugs (what's not to love?)!						
Membership number:						
Surname:						
Forename(s):						
Home address:						
	Postcode:					
Previous surname (if applicable):						
Previous address (if applicable):						
	Postcode:					
Personal contact number:						
Personal email address:						
Job title:						
Work address/location:						
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Work contact number:						
Work email address:						
Please indicate your preferred email address:	il Please indicate if you would like UNISON to contact you via:					
Personal email	Email	-th-				
Work email	Text Phone	KEEP				
Please email completed form	s to unison@npt.gov.uk	CALM				
Port Talbot, SA13 1PJ	rt Talbot Branch, Room 254, Civic Centre, e how we will protect and use your private information	KEEP UPDATED!				



FROM ALL THE UNISON OFFICERS. STEWARDS AND WORKPLACE REPS. WE WISH YOU A MERRY CHRISTMAS

AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR!



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NPT UNISON

01639 763820 unison@npt.gov.uk www.nptunison.org.uk

Postal address

UNISON, c/o Civic Centre, Port Talbot SA13 1PJ

Personal visits

Room 254, First Floor, Civic Centre, Port Talbot

Branch Secretary / **Membership Officer**

Jane Gebbie

0750 864 3052 j.gebbie@npt.gov.uk

Branch Chair / **Labour Link Officer**

Mark Fisher 0797 125 5130

unisonchair@npt.gov.uk

Assistant Branch Secretary / **Equalities Officer**

Sam Alkarnaz

01639 686953 or 0786 653 9456 s.alkarnaz@npt.gov.uk

Branch Vice Chair / International Officer

Lisa Walters

01639 763925 I.walters@npt.gov.uk

Treasurer / Labour Link Officer

Neelo Farr 01639 862997

n.farr@neath-porttalbot.gov.uk

Welfare Officer

Hazel Dance

01639 684743

h.dance@npt.gov.uk

Health & Safety Officer Gareth Pennington

g.pennin@yahoo.co.uk

Education & Training Officer

Karen Chapman

k.chapman@npt.gov.uk

Communication Officer

Alison Lloyd

01639 881635

a.lloyd@npt.gov.uk

Lifelong Learning Officer

Debbie John

01639 685276

d.john3@npt.gov.uk

Young Members Officer

David Coleman

0794 785 5039

daicole20@gmail.com

Sports & Social Officer Hannah Jones

01639 763820

Green Officer

Simon Young

youngsimonb@sky.com

UNISON Direct Hotline

0800 0 857 857 (Freephone)

Open 6am-midnight Monday-Friday 9am-4pm Saturdays

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