



About the WGGB

Formed in 1959 The Writers' Guild of Great Britain (WGGB) is a TUC affiliated trade union that represents professional writers in the UK. We organise in the following sectors, film, television, animation, theatre, radio, books and videogames and have national agreements covering television, radio, film and theatre. We have over 3500 members including 1960 film and TV screenwriters.

WGGB has a typical union structure, led by a General Secretary and elected Officers and Executive Council representing our organising sectors and UK regions. Currently we have nine members of staff, Ellie Peers (General Secretary), Lesley Gannon (Deputy General Secretary), John Sailing (Senior Union Organiser), Sarah Woodley (Communications Manager), Kate Glasspool (Organiser), Eleanor Dawson (Organising Assistant – craft), Joe Abel (Organising Assistant – regions), Donya Jeyabalasingham (Policy & Campaign Assistant) and Tiffany Hanks-McComas (Administrator Membership).

We work collectively with trade unions and writer's organisations both here and abroad, including (but not limited to) the Trade Union Congress (TUC), International Affiliation of Writers' Guilds, Federation of Entertainment Unions (FEU), Performers' Alliance, British Copyright Council, British Screen Advisory Council, Federation of Screenwriters in Europe (FSE), International Authors forum, Creators Rights Alliance, and Creative UK.

We are funded by member subscriptions. We have increased our membership which has increased our income and the demands on our services. Since 2023, due to several factors including the cost-of-living crisis in the UK, our operating costs have increased significantly putting pressure on budgets meaning that we will be looking to reduce our costs and increase our union subscription fees in 2025.

Below is an update on some of the key negotiations and activities undertaken by the WGGB to defend and improve the working lives of UK scriptwriters in 2024.

Netflix agreement for episodic writers, it is a short agreement that has fundamentally changed the contractual terms of writers. Prior to the agreement writers were paid a fee + 125% advance for in-perpetuity on Netflix services and an all-media buyout of 10 years effective from the first sale. The new agreement pays the same. Netflix can use the advance to pre-purchase up to 9.5 years on Netflix services. There is now **no**

all media buyout so any sales off platform pay a royalty to the writer, along with pension and other benefits.

BBC Script Agreement for Television Online, an agreement for writers commissioned by the BBC (public service broadcaster) renegotiated a 10% uplift in minimum fees.

We have continued to be in active negotiations with Pact (Indie Producers organisation) on a new film agreement and updating the Screenwriting Credits Agreement and TAC (Welsh language Indie Producers) on updating the writers agreement.

In theatre, we have won significant increases in minimum fees under our UK Theatre and TNC agreements. We are close to signing off on digital use with UK Theatre (employer association). We are in active negotiations NT Live (global digital platform for cinematic releases of theatre productions produced by the National Theatre) and with the Independent Theatre Council (theatre management organisation) to update our agreement and minimum fees.

In the main, the collective bargaining negotiations have been progressing well and we hope to conclude the majority of them by the end of this year.

We have increased our union activity, with our organisers building our branches, supporting our reps and increasing member participation, we now have the largest number of members and regional union reps in our history. And all our craft sectors have union reps.

For our members, we have put on numerous events both in person and online, provided free training and more recently run monthly network events for underrepresented writers, all of which continue to be very popular and a useful retention and recruitment tool.

We produced a manifesto ahead of the UK General Election, which calls for fair pay, fair treatment, sustainable sector, copyright protection and AI regulations, and will continue our lobbying work with the new Labour Government.

The above is a snapshot of our activities this year, further information on our activities can be found in our [Annual Report](#) or on the WGGB website [News - Writers' Guild of Great Britain \(writersguild.org.uk\)](#).

Ellie Peers
WGGB General Secretary