

## WHY SHOULD I JOIN THE UNION?

The union is committed to supporting members individually in facing difficulties with trainings and accrediting bodies, employers, as well as with client complaints.

*How can therapists have a union? Most of us are self-employed.*

Many therapists are self-employed and we support every corner of the field on an equal basis, including trainees. Many are employed on a part-time basis also. Therapy tends to be a very isolated occupation, and this is in itself a reason to come together as a group.

*Doesn't my accrediting body cover what you are offering?*

No. Bodies like UKCP and BACP are both prosecutors and judges in complaints procedures; they themselves acknowledge that they cannot act as defenders and supporters for practitioners.

PCU has achieved special status and been recognised by BACP, UKCP, BPC, and the NCS.

## JOIN US AND GET SUPPORT

**TOGETHER WE CAN TAKE ACTION  
ON ISSUES IMPORTANT TO OUR  
PROFESSION**

Trainees can draw on the union's resources for help with training or placement issues. PCU has actively campaigned for students, lobbying professional bodies in regard to the proliferation of unpaid work, and ensuring both supervision and travel expenses are funded when undertaking placements.

[Psychotherapyandcounsellingunion.co.uk](http://Psychotherapyandcounsellingunion.co.uk)

[pcu.union@gmail.com](mailto:pcu.union@gmail.com)

OR FIND US ON FACEBOOK



**Standing up for Therapists and Therapy**





## WHAT THE UNION OFFERS ITS MEMBERS

### Individual support with:

- workplace disciplinary and grievance procedures
  - complaints processes
- bullying, harassment and discrimination
- problems with training organisations
- whistle-blowing related problems

### Group support with:

- organisational dysfunction
  - threatened closure of training programs and organisations
- issues of discrimination, difference, and diversity

### A voice in:

- collective decision making within the Union
- identifying and carrying through campaigning issues
- communicating with other members through the Union

*A Union is based on the principles of mutual aid and solidarity*

PCU offers a place to network and campaign alongside qualified therapists

Membership is open to all therapists and trainees in the UK

**UNION MEMBERSHIP IS ONLY £12 PER YEAR FOR STUDENTS**

To join send an email to:  
[pcu.union@gmail.com](mailto:pcu.union@gmail.com)

Please include your name, address, phone, training organisation, and specific information about your practice e.g. private, NHS, voluntary, charity, other organisation - employed, self-employed, unemployed.

### SUBSCRIPTION

Practising therapists:

£60 per year (or £5 per month)

Trainee, retired, and unemployed therapists:

£12 per year (or £1 per month)

Make a standing order payable to:  
PCU, Unity Trust Bank plc,  
60-83-01 - 20357063

Please use your name as reference

**CODES OF PRACTICE FOR  
TRAINING AND EMPLOYMENT:  
CHANGING THE GAME FOR UNPAID  
TRAINEES WORKING TOWARDS THEIR  
QUALIFICATION**

PCU encourages training, placement and therapy organisations to adopt fair conditions and ethical standards for trainees and employees. By adopting the code of practice organisations are making explicit their high standards of care for therapists and clients.

PCU challenges the culture of exploitation of trainees doing voluntary work. Providers often cannot afford to pay enough experienced practitioners, and trainees cannot qualify without sufficient hours of practice. This is as not equitable as it sounds, it leaves the trainee with no real choice in the matter, while work conditions are often unsatisfactory.

**HAVE A VOICE AND HELP  
SHAPE THE FUTURE OF  
THERAPY**