

Workfare, and You.

Bankers are receiving millions in bonuses. The government is full of millionaires. Yet you may soon be forced to work for no wages...



Workfare: It means people like you forced to do unpaid work, for up to six months, for multi-million pound companies. Politicians wouldn't work for six months for no pay so why should you?

Forced unpaid work: It means giving millions to those with millions. But It will not provide you with a job. Why?

By forcing people to work for no wages, multi-million pound companies such as Asda, Tesco and Poundland use workfare to *replace paid* positions. They can now get staff for free, so why pay for them?

But people across the country are finding ways to challenge workfare. Look after yourself and stay in touch with us! Tell people you know who might be affected that we exist, that we are working on ways to help. Share information with us. The more we know, the stronger we *all* are.

Turn over and make sure you are not forced to work unpaid.

www.boycottworkfare.org | info@boycottworkfare.org

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1. Don't volunteer for “Work experience”!

Once you volunteer for job centre 'work experience' it becomes mandatory. Then if you stop doing this work experience, your benefits can be stopped.

Make sure this doesn't happen to you:

- Do not agree to volunteer for the job centre's “work experience”: It quickly becomes forced unpaid labour.
- If you want to do work experience, find something that is *really* voluntary.
- If you are sent on the scheme, you must turn up on the first day- but you do not face sanctions if you leave within during the first week (unless this is due to misconduct).

2. Avoid Mandatory Work Activity!

We have seen people referred for 'Mandatory Work Activity' simply because they have challenged their advisor. But there are strict guidelines for who can be referred. You can use the DWP rules below to challenge referral! You do not have to go on this scheme if:

- you are currently working (paid or voluntary)
- you are undertaking employment related study / training
- you are taking part in or recently completed another “employment measure”
- the reason given is you have a lack of recent work experience
- you are being referred because your advisor thinks you haven't been meeting your jobseeker's agreement.

3. Also, watch out for the “Work Programme”

Multi-million pound companies like A4E profit from making our lives miserable on the Work Programme.

Know your rights! Did you know that the only personal data you need to share is your referral letter and signing on book? You do not need to give them your bank details, passport or driving licence. Did you know the Job Centre can postpone starting the Work Programme for 90 days if you have a job interview, or are expecting to work soon? Did you know that if you are on another job centre scheme, pregnant or a survivor of domestic violence you do not have to do the Work Programme?

Visit the **consent.me.uk** website for info on your rights on the Work Programme.

Remember, you are not alone. That's why Boycott Workfare was formed by people like you. So help yourself, get involved and spread the word!

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