

What is workfare?

Workfare is unemployed people forced to work for free for up to 6 months with no guarantee of a job afterwards, many of them for major high street companies.

Workfare means forced labour: 3 out of 5 schemes are mandatory ; people are often pressured into the two 'voluntary' schemes or if they refuse to participate, are put on a mandatory scheme. All schemes use sanctions - they can lead to the removal of vital benefits.



Does workfare affect people with jobs?

Workfare means employers can lay off their staff and replace them with people they don't have to pay. The point is to drive down wages and working conditions, undermining even the minimum wage which many of us struggle to survive on. Workfare schemes are hugely expensive to the tax payer but the government thinks lowering our wages is the way out of the recession - they plan to expand workfare to well over a million by the end of the year. Disguised as 'work experience', these schemes are in fact a subsidy to businesses, providing them with free labour at public expense. Workfare means less pay for us and more profits for them.

Does workfare help the unemployed?

The government's own research shows these schemes could actually lower jobseekers' chances of finding a job - where previously employers would have filled these roles by paid staff, they now get free labour at public expense. A small minority are given jobs at the end of their workfare placements, but most don't - and all of them live in fear of losing their livelihood.

What can I do to help?

1. Don't shop here today - join the boycott of Poundland.
2. Tell them about your decision - poundland.co.uk/enquiry/customer-enquiry
3. Take part in communications blockades. These will be announced on the Solfed website. For updates go to solfed.org.uk and click on End Unpaid Work (or go to <http://is.gd/kwS9Vh>).
4. Join our pickets - just ask us about future ones.

Hull Solidarity Federation

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Please do not shop here today!

Poundland is signed up to the government's workfare scheme, which is seeing the placement of unpaid jobseekers across their stores. While Poundland get their labour for free, people on workfare are often pressured into these government programs and face sanctions for not participating - like having their benefits stopped (see info overleaf).

Poundland boasts that they "support young people and provide them with an opportunity to pursue a career in retail". With huge profits like theirs, they can afford to support young people by paying them for their work. Of course workfare replaces paid jobs and undermines pay and conditions - meaning there won't be careers for young people to go to. **Why would employers pay staff if the government offers them forced labour for free?**

In reality, Poundland make their money from profiteering from working class people's hardship in a recession. Since the start of the economic crisis in 2008, Poundland stores have shot up from 150 to over 400 stores and their profits have doubled.

Poundland are one of the worst workfare exploiters benefiting from this taxpayer funded gravy train. But **we can fight workfare** - our campaign has already forced the government's flagship workfare profiteer Holland & Barrett to withdraw - and Poundland will be next.

BOYCOTT POUNDLAND

UNTIL THEY END UNPAID WORK



Holland & Barrett backed down after a sustained campaign. Poundland is next.