

Workfare and You.

Workfare: it means forced unpaid work.



When you graduate with your student debts into a very bleak jobs market, you would be forgiven for thinking that it could not get worse. You would be wrong. If you claim Jobseekers Allowance, you will be forced to work. Unpaid.

It gets worse: Not only will you be forced to work unpaid, you will be forced to work unpaid for multimillion pound companies, such as Argos, doing things that are totally unrelated to your qualification, and chosen career path.

Workfare and You

- **Young people are fast-tracked** onto workfare schemes.
- **Graduates are fast-tracked** as they are deemed 'not to have a work history'.
- **Fewer part-time jobs** for students as more employers opt for free workers.
- Your degree subject and specialisation and classification **will not matter**.
- Even if you are already volunteering you could be told to stop and **be forced to 'volunteer' in Argos, Superdrug or Poundland**.
- Workfare means **fewer paid jobs available for everyone**, the erosion of wages, working rights and conditions, and an attack on the minimum wage.
- Workfare **normalises the idea people should work unpaid**, so supports the culture of companies using and abusing unpaid internships.

Workfare does not increase peoples' chances of finding work. It means destitution for those whose benefits are stopped for not complying. It spells the end of the idea that people have a right to survive - a right to welfare - in our society. It's the beginning of the idea that it's normal for people to work unpaid for multimillion pound companies. Workfare is a race to the bottom, with everybody impoverished further.

Outraged? You should be. All three main political parties now believe that graduates should work unpaid, and be forced to work well below their level of education. There is an ongoing policy assault on opportunities and quality of life for young people.

Why? To boost the profits of big companies and private Work Programme providers, such as A4e. Workfare gives billions of taxpayers' money to the 1%, yet provides no jobs. You have studied hard. You deserve more. You deserve wages and welfare. Boycott exploitation. Boycott Workfare.

Together we are winning!

Oxfam, HMV, Sainsbury's and Pizza Hut are just some of the big names that have pulled out of the government's workfare schemes due to our campaign. We have seen pro-workfare conferences cancelled due to public pressure. More needs to be done, and can be! Help keep up the pressure. It's easy to get involved!

What you can do

- Know your rights when you graduate and enforce them. It is important that you protect yourself from the first day you sign on. See www.donotsign.com and www.consent.me.uk.
- Visit www.boycottworkfare.org and sign our petition.
- Spread the word tell people that we can help, that we exist.
- Get involved! Come to our meetings. Our campaign is open: membership is not required. Email us your thoughts and ideas – it is your campaign!
- Get your students union to sign our pledge not to participate in workfare schemes. Ask friendly tutors to get your local UCU branch to sign our pledge.
- Come to our fun, friendly, fast-moving days of action!
- Follow us on Twitter and like us on Facebook. Help us reach 10,000 Likes!
- Boycott the shops taking part in workfare such as British Heart Foundation, Barnardos, Salvation Army, Superdrug, Argos and Poundland.

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