

What is Workfare?

Unemployed people being forced to work for free for up to six months with no guarantee of a job afterwards, many of them for major high street companies, such as British Heart Foundation, Debenhams, Poundland, Superdrug, Tesco, WHS Smiths, and more. Workfare is just another way



for the bosses to get around paying their workers properly. There is even evidence that Workfare makes people **LESS LIKELY** to find employment, as bosses get used to the idea of forcing Jobseekers to work for free: The governments own statistics show less than 4% of people on its 'work program' got a job, many more would have found work without it!

What if I have a job already?

Workfare means employers can lay-off their staff or reduce hours and overtime. The point of Workfare is to drive down wages and working conditions, undermining even the minimum wage which many struggle to survive on. It also helps large companies to undercut independent shops (who pay their staff), closing more local businesses.

Doesn't Workfare save us money?

Actually Workfare is hugely expensive to the government: just one of the five Workfare schemes alone costs more than the entire yearly bill for Job Seekers Allowance! It saves the private companies money however, but tax payers end up with the multi-billion pound bill. It's another way the rich steal from the poor; just like bailing out banks, or paying wages so low they have to be topped up with tax credits and benefits. Workfare means less pay and jobs for us, and more profits for them.

What can we do to stop Workfare?

A massive campaign has already forced 27 companies supporting Workfare to pull out of the scheme, as it's becoming an embarrassment to greedy bosses and politicians. As a Jobseeker, you have the right to refuse Workfare. To find out more about the campaign, or your Workfare rights, check out www.boycottworkfare.org.

Workfare shafts workers and the unemployed, and puts more money in the pockets of bosses! Together, we can fight back!

To find out more, e-mail Black And Red Federation at: bathactivistnet@yahoo.co.uk, or check out our website:

www.network23.org/barf

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