

What's the problem?**ACTIVITY SHEET 4A
RIGHTS AT WORK - KS3**

When you start working, here are some of the rights you should expect in the workplace. Which do you think are the most important and why? Are there any missing?

Rights at work**1. To earn a living wage**

This means earning enough to pay for food, shelter, transport and healthcare with some left over to spend on other things you may need.

2. Working hours that are set by rules and are not excessive

You should not be forced to work more than the hours stated in a regulation. In the UK this is set by European rules and is 48 hours a week for most workers. Overtime should not be required on a regular basis, as everyone has the right to rest.

3. To work in safe and healthy conditions

For example, if you are working in a factory with chemicals, you should be provided with protective clothing and gloves.

4. Freedom from discrimination

You should not be discriminated against at work, for example because of your age, religion or gender.

5. A contract of employment

A contract proves that you are being employed by someone else. It should set out your responsibilities, working hours and benefits, like maternity/paternity cover, sick leave, paid holiday entitlement.

6. The right to join a trade union

People at work can join together in trade unions, giving them a collective and independent voice in the workplace. As members of a trade union, workers have more power together than they do as individuals. This helps them negotiate better pay and working conditions with their employers.



Clean Clothes Campaign

Your task

Read *Life in sporting goods factories* (Activity sheet 4b)

- Which rights are/are not being respected in these stories?
- Collect evidence by picking out key words or phrases.
- Why do you think rights at work are important?
- When workers are denied their rights, how could this affect them and their families?
- Why might respecting workplace rights be important for eliminating poverty?
- Why do you think workers who join a union might be intimidated by their employer?