



Why should we stay in the EU?

One of the biggest benefits of being in the EU is that many of our rights at work have been fought for over the years and are protected.

In the 1990's, Labour signed up to the 'Social Chapter' in Europe. Quite a lot of Tory's wish we weren't a part of it. But, whilst ever we are, workers in the UK have some guaranteed employment rights that the government can't mess with. And, under this Tory government that's very important!

The EU ensures minimum standards can be expected by workers. Many Tory's and UKIP's see this as 'red tape' which needs to be removed. Not all employers think that they should have to give their employees a break during the working day - 'time is money' afterall.

The Tory's have made it clear that their priority is business, not workers.

Boris Johnson, 2012: "Scrap the Social Chapter."

They have attacked workers and their rights, especially so in recent months, with the Trade Union Act just being the starting point. Our employment rights are not safe in their hands.

So, why does this matter to young people?

- The Working Time Regulations give you fair pay, conditions and a limit to working hours - you can't be forced to work more than 48 hours per week; you should have a 24 hour break in every 7 days or 48 hour break in every 14 days; you are entitled to a minimum 4 weeks paid annual leave; minimum break requirements of 20 minutes in every 6 hours and 11 hours in-between shifts.

Q. Are you 16-17 years old? If so, you are entitled to even better breaks: you can't be forced to work more than 8 hours per day; no more than 40 hours per week; you must have a minimum 12 hour break in-between shifts; 2 days off per week; 30 minute rest break for each 4 ½ hours worked; and you can't be made to work between 10 pm - 6 am.

- Equal pay for work of equal value.
- Equal treatment and protection from discrimination for all regardless of age, religion, belief, sexual orientation, disability, race, ethnicity and sex.

- Extra support for workers with disabilities.
- Support for women workers and parents in the form of equal pay; 14 weeks paid maternity leave; up to 4 months unpaid parental leave; health & safety for pregnant workers; equal access for men and women to jobs, training and career development; and equal treatment in access to social security.
- Protections for part time and temporary workers - agency staff have a right to the same treatment as permanent staff after 3 months employment. We need to continue the campaign to get this to start from day 1 of employment; and part time or fixed term workers should receive no less favourable treatment than comparable full time staff.
- Many health & safety protections are guaranteed by the EU - 2 million people die each year worldwide as a result of work related injuries and disease. The majority of these aren't tragic accidents, they are due to employer's deciding that safety wasn't a priority.
- Protections of contract terms and the right to be consulted if your employer changes.

Ask yourself:

If we come out of the EU, do I trust the Tory government to protect my rights at work?

NO! Vote to Remain in the EU. #RemainINEU