



Proposed Protection of Workers (Retail and Age- Restricted Sales Etc.) (Scotland) Bill

[About the STUC](#)

The STUC is Scotland's trade union centre. Its purpose is to co-ordinate, develop and articulate the views and policies of the trade union movement in Scotland; reflecting the aspirations of trade unionists as workers and citizens.

The STUC represents over 560,000 working people and their families throughout Scotland. It speaks for trade union members in and out of work, in the community and in the workplace. Our affiliated organisations have interests in all sectors of the economy and our representative structures are constructed to take account of the specific views of women members, young members, Black members, LGBT+ members, and members with a disability, as well as retired and unemployed workers

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Etc.) (Scotland) Bill**
STUC Consultation Response

The STUC supports the submission made by Unite Scotland, enclosed, on the Proposed Protection of Workers (Retail and Age-Restricted Sales Etc.) (Scotland) Bill.

The STUC wishes to add the following points from Usdaw who represent nearly 45,000 members with the majority working in retail and distribution. Usdaw conducted a survey of their members in retail between 2016-17. This survey showed that 50% of respondents were verbally abused and 29% were threatened. 8% had been assaulted with 32% of these victims not reporting the incident.

These survey results led Usdaw to set up the Freedom from Fear Campaign in the face of growing concerns amongst retail workers about violence, threats and abuse. The campaign works with retailers to promote respect and make workplaces safer for staff and customers alike. Respect for Shopworkers Week is an important part of the Freedom from Fear campaign. Every year, Usdaw reps take the campaign to the public by running stalls in their workplace, aiming to spread the message that abuse is not part of the job.

The STUC supported the introduction of the Emergency Workers (Obstruction) Act 2006 but note that this has not led to a decrease in the number of emergency workers who have been targeted. As such, the STUC believe that this legislation is useful if implemented in conjunction with a mass publicity campaign and workers are encouraged to report incidents to their trade unions as well as to the police. Only by doing this can trade union representatives ensure that the aims of the legislation, and the aims of other health and safety at work legislation, are being implemented in the workplace.

Nonetheless, the STUC is supportive of the aims of this consultation document but hope that it also creates a wider discussion about protection for all public facing workers.

STUC
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