



AXA UK UNION NEWSLETTER

August 2007

Young workers raw deal

One in five under 24's are getting a raw deal at work. New survey results show that young people are being exploited at work as they are less likely to answer back. Today's young workers feel insecure at work, with anxieties about their employment future, about finding good work close to home and about finding a job that will support family life.



An ICM survey for **Unite (Amicus)** suggested that younger workers are in danger of suffering from work-related worries and having stress spread throughout their lives.

The survey showed that:

- 51% felt young workers are exploited
- 34% workers felt poorly paid for the job they did.
- 43% found hard to find interesting local work
- 53% feared they could not support a family with their job
- 22% had wages docked because of illness.

Many young workers are stretching their wages to meet every day living costs. 54% of under-24's have credit card bills, 86% mortgage or rent repayments, 20% childcare and 15% student loan repayments.

Tony Woodley, Joint General Secretary of **Unite** said in response to the survey; "Young people want respect and dignity at work. They are not satisfied with McJobs and rightly so. It is shameful that so many of them are getting a raw deal at work. Alienation and exploitation cannot be left unchecked".

The union is campaigning for an end to McJobs typified by low wages, low opportunity and casualisation and instead the provision of secure and interesting work for young workers. The union is also calling for the removal of lower rates of pay under the National Minimum Wage for workers under 22, which causes confusion, poverty and exploitation.

Uni students at risk

More than 90% of students work part time while studying. Research shows that it is younger people that are more likely to face discrimination and bullying at work.

If your son or daughter is a student who also works part time you can ensure they have the protection that comes with being a member of the UK's largest private sector trade union for as little as £10 a year.

Their being a member entitles them to protection and representation at work when problems occur, even in non-unionised work places.

To find out more visit the union website at:

www.amicustheunion.org

or speak to your local workplace rep.

The deal in AXA?

This week we will be issuing a questionnaire to workers at every **AXA** sites to see what issues they face and what concerns they have.

We encourage you all to fill it in (regardless of age) so we can get a better picture of the issues that effect you and what we can do to address them to make **AXA** a better place for all workers.

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www.axa-amicus.org.uk