



thehiddenworkforce

Who are 'hidden' workers?

Around two million workers in the UK are trapped in low-paid, insecure jobs where being badly treated is a normal part of working life. These vulnerable workers are often employed by contractors and are less likely than others to be represented by trade unions. Many are migrant workers.

One in four

As many as one in four public service workers – around 1.2 million – are employed by contractors. Many of these workers are vulnerable because they are afraid and can be easily exploited. Yet the contracted-out workforce is often unorganised, lacking the trade union representation it desperately needs.

How can your branch help?

Regions and branches need to reach out to workers in the contracted-out workforce, not only to ensure they have support, but to encourage them to become active in the union.

unison.org.uk/hiddenworkforce



UNISON is never better than when we are defending those public service workers most at risk of exploitation. I strongly urge all regions and branches to actively support the Hidden Workforce project.”

Dave Prentis, UNISON general secretary

Spotlight on the hidden workforce

To end marginalisation of contracted-out workers the Hidden Workforce project will:

- highlight exploitation of hidden workers
- focus on the organising challenge
- identify barriers to support
- show how UNISON organisers and activists can support hidden workers by:
 - sharing best practice
 - providing practical training
 - developing web-based materials
- help regions and branches identify and develop new activists from the hidden workforce
- organise events and workshops involving key opinion formers in UNISON to improve understanding of the problems of contracted-out workers and the barriers they have to overcome.

To join UNISON online visit unison.org.uk/join or call 0845 355 0845