

USDAW CAMPAIGN

Justice for Injured Workers



The Government is forcing more injured workers into the **SMALL** claims court, where they won't be properly represented and are unlikely to get justice.

It is not a SMALL issue if an accident leaves a worker with...

- A black eye, broken nose and split lip.
- Back pain so bad they cannot pick up their own child.
- Facial injury and scarring.
- An ankle injury that stops them from driving for months.
- Anxiety attacks when they go back to work after being assaulted by a shoplifter.

Help Usdaw stop the Government and protect justice for injured workers.

See back page for three ways you can support the campaign...

Usdaw
*Union of Shop, Distributive
and Allied Workers*



The Government is proposing to leave tens of thousands of victims of workplace accidents and industrial diseases each year without access to legal representation.

The Government wants workplace accident and disease claims of up to £2,000 to be heard in the Small Claims Court, where you cannot reclaim your legal fees from your employer – even if your accident was their fault. Employers fight such claims every step of the way and employ their own lawyers to do so. Victims of industrial accidents need the same legal support, something which Usdaw members say they could not do without.

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The reduction in the number of injured workers able to pursue claims will lead directly to a deterioration in workplace health and safety. The Government's changes will increase the likelihood of workers being injured whilst also removing their ability to seek compensation when they sustain injury through no fault of their own.

Ushaw's Legal Plus service ensures members receive the expert legal assistance they deserve, and they keep 100% of the compensation. The Government's proposals could mean that members lose out on this important protection.



Under the Government's proposals it is unlikely a solicitor would take on the following cases given the amount of work required, complexity of the case and the modest amount of damages that could be recovered.

This could result in members being denied access to justice:

An Usdaw member suffered a blow to the head causing headaches and soft tissue injury to the neck after slipping on water leaking from a machine at work. Liability was denied by the employer who alleged they had a reasonable system of inspection in place and that the machine was in working order. Solicitors provided by Usdaw were able to demonstrate that this was certainly not the case and our member was awarded £1,750 in compensation.

An Usdaw member suffered a hand injury during the course of his employment while condensing cardboard in a cage at work. Liability was denied by the employer on the basis that the claimant failed to follow training and disputed his version of events. Due to the employers initial denial of liability a solicitor commenced court proceedings and the case was settled for £1,750.

An Usdaw member suffered injuries to her neck and shoulder as a result of a lifting accident at work. Liability was denied by her employer. The case was settled for £1,900 only after the claimant's solicitor was forced to issue court proceedings.



Ushaw Legal Plus is one of the great benefits of being an Usdaw member, but did you know that family members can benefit too. It provides a great range of legal services for Usdaw members and their family which includes:

- Accidents, injuries and diseases
- Violent Crime (CICA)
- Employment
- Prosecutions
- Probate and free wills
- Moving House
- Legal Advice not related to work
- Help for your family
- Pensions
- Health and Safety

For more information visit www.usdaw.org.uk/legalplus



Usdaw General Secretary Paddy Lillis says:

We are campaigning to stop the Government from forcing more injured workers into the small claims court, where the costs of legal representation cannot be recovered from negligent employers.

“ This is an important campaign for all our members, not just for injured workers. It is clear the proposals will have a knock-on effect for workplace health and safety, as bad employers let standards slip because they know they’re unlikely to face the consequences in court.

While employers will continue paying for expensive lawyers, workers with claims worth under £2,000 will be forced to fend for themselves.”

We want the Government to accept the reasonable and fair compromise of raising the threshold to £1,500. Usdaw fears that an increase to £2,000 will not only restrict access to justice, but also have a damaging effect on workplace health and safety.

Here are three ways to support Usdaw’s campaign:

1. E-mail your MP asking them to oppose the Government’s changes. It’s quick and easy to do with Usdaw’s online e-mail your MP facility at: www.usdaw.org.uk/Justice4InjuredWorkers
2. Spread the word on social media using **#Justice4InjuredWorkers** or **#J4IW**
3. Download our petition and collect signatures from colleagues, friends and family: www.usdaw.org.uk/JusticePetition

Please help Usdaw by supporting this important campaign.”

USDW CAMPAIGN
**Justice for
Injured Workers**



#J4IW



For more information on Usdaw’s campaigns visit our website: www.usdaw.org.uk/campaigns

To join Usdaw visit: www.usdaw.org.uk/join or call: 0800 030 80 30

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