

SWU General Secretary 2026 Election: Further Information

The week commencing 30th March 2026 will see ballot papers despatched to eligible* SWU members, asking you to vote for one of two candidates for the important role of General Secretary.

We have two candidates in this election: **Dave Callow** and **Calum Gallacher**.

The SWU General Secretary is the Chief Executive Officer, decision maker on the Executive's behalf, and supported by the SWU National Executive and Honorary Officer's Group so it is a key union position. The SWU Legal Advisor has been involved in the election process and the ballot is being facilitated by Civica UK, acting as a qualified and independent Returning Officer and Scrutineer.

Candidates were asked to submit a photograph and an election statement for inclusion on the ballot papers. Election statements from Dave and Calum will be printed with the posted ballot papers so please read carefully.

The ballot return deadline is midday on April 29th.

The election results will be announced by SWU on April 30th.

*As per the SWU rules and Bye Laws, Bye Law - 2.3 The entitlement to vote as set out at Bye-Law 2.2 shall not apply to any Member who, at the date of distribution of voting papers, has less than three months' continuous membership of the Union and/or is in arrears in respect of any admission fee and/or membership subscription fees payable to the Union.



Thank you for reading my statement. Like you, I am passionate about this union. I joined at the first opportunity and have worked my way from an ordinary member to serving as your SWU Chair. I am proud to have been nominated to that role by the Executive Committee, and I have treated that trust as both an honour and a responsibility. Activism is in my DNA. Alongside my union role, I serve as Chair of the Austerity Action Group, giving me deeper insight into the political and economic pressures shaping our profession and the daily realities our members face.

I am standing for General Secretary because I believe in us, in the courage, compassion, and humanity of social workers. I believe in a union that doesn't just represent you but truly sees you. A union that embraces your identity, honours your belonging, and stands up for the whole person you are: professional, parent, carer, advocate, and human being.

From my earliest days in social work practice in Child and Family safeguarding teams, I witnessed the

immense emotional load social workers carry. I supported families who had been left behind by society, listening to their fears and fighting for their right to safety and dignity. In that work, I learned that social workers give so much of themselves often more than anyone will ever know. But I also learned that we cannot pour endlessly from an empty cup.

Too many social workers are caring for others while quietly carrying enormous responsibilities at home - raising children, supporting disabled family members, caring for ageing parents, or holding households together under strain. Yet the system too often behaves as though these pressures do not exist. As though being a social worker means being endlessly available, endlessly resilient, endlessly willing to sacrifice.

As General Secretary, I will challenge that narrative head-on. My vision is for a revitalised and reinvigorated union, one that strengthens our trade union presence, deepens our links with the General Federation of Trade Unions, and pursues a renewed application to the Trades Union Congress. I will also lead an open and transparent conversation about our relationship with BASW, ensuring that whatever direction we take is rooted in what is best for our members.

I want SWU to be a powerful, visible, and confident voice for social workers where flexible working, manageable workloads, safe staffing, and professional respect are not aspirations but non-negotiable standards. A union that organises, campaigns, and wins - led by and accountable to its members. I will defend your rights, honour your identity, and fight for the conditions you need not just to survive, but to thrive. Together, we can continue to build a union that lifts us, protects us, and reminds every social worker: you belong, and you matter. You are never alone.



I am standing for General Secretary because Social Workers Union must be a genuinely member-led trade union that delivers credible, practical improvements to the working conditions of frontline social workers.

We social workers carry heavily weighing responsibilities in systems that are too often under-resourced, policies and legislation that are disconnected from the realities of practice.

A union worthy of the exclusive social worker’s membership must focus relentlessly on action to secure what members need most: manageable workloads, safe staffing, professional autonomy, and workplaces that uphold ethical practice rather than undermine it.

Our priorities must be set by members from ground up, not imposed from the top down.

As General Secretary, I would provide ethical, transparent leadership that is clearly accountable directly to the membership. Decision-making must be open, evidence-based, and rooted in the union’s values.

Trust is built through honesty, consistency, and a willingness to explain decisions and be challenged by members.

Together we can build a strong union is not afraid of scrutiny, one that is strengthened by peer reflection and scrutiny.

I bring high level experience as a social worker with the ability to manage complex information, assess risk, and make balanced decisions in high-pressure environments. These skills are essential to leading a national trade union in negotiations, disputes, and strategic planning.

I approach leadership with noble intent, acting in good faith, weighing evidence carefully, and placing the long-term interests of members and the profession above political considerations.

A key priority for me is improving power-sharing and governance within the union. Members must have meaningful routes to influence policy, strategy, and industrial priorities within the sector. We need clearer and governance structures that are transparent, communication, branches for engagement, understandable, and democratic in practice. The General Secretary should be a facilitator of collective power, not a gatekeeper.

I am committed to continuing to work constructively with the British Association of Social Workers (BASW), while being clear about our distinct roles. Social Workers Union is a professional trade union; BASW is a professional body. Healing and rebuilding this relationship requires mutual respect, and a shared focus on improving the lives and status of every day social workers. We can do this with BASW without blurring identities or undermining the union’s independence.

This election is an opportunity to strengthen our union, deepen our democracy, and refocus on what frontline social workers need most. If you want a General Secretary who leads with integrity, listens to members first, and is accountable to you, I ask you to vote for me.

Together, we can build a union that truly belongs to its members.

The SWU Formal Hustings

As advertised to all members, SWU recorded a Q/A husting on Tuesday 24th March. This was a live recording which means that the questions were answered in real time and the uncut video recording of this live stream is below:

<https://youtu.be/ZCkCMNBrWcw>

The two candidates were offered four recording dates and 12 time slots, with one candidate making the decision to not participate in the recording. Regardless, the hustings session went ahead as planned. We would like to thank the members who submitted questions across a wide variety of topics which will be reflected in the hustings - sorry we could not use them all.

Once the candidates were confirmed, they and other organisations were advised that separate events or individual promotions regarding this election could be arranged independently from SWU. However, the SWU hustings is the only formal election event using SWU resources.

Endorsed or Not Endorsed by SWU: What does this mean?

The SWU Endorsement Committee was set up as part of the election process by the SWU National Executive to oversee the election endorsement process.

The Endorsement Committee reviewed candidates' personal statements and skills test results. Candidates who did not meet the requirements set out in the endorsement process will not be endorsed by SWU on the ballot paper, including those who did not complete a skills test.

Candidates may still stand for election, whether endorsed or not.

What is a skills test?

The SWU Nominations Committee introduced a skills informed endorsement process to support the union in assessing candidates' knowledge and experience relevant to the key role of General Secretary. This process formed part of SWU's endorsement considerations only **and did not affect any candidate's right to stand for election**. Any candidate who chose not to take part in the skills test was informed throughout the process that they would not receive SWU endorsement on the ballot paper if it was not completed.

Both candidates were advised that SWU would be introducing a skills test. Both candidates were sent the candidate guidance sheet along with further information about the election process, including details of the skills test and the planned SWU formal hustings.

The General Secretary role differs significantly from that of a social worker and involves far broader union governance responsibilities than those of a social worker. For this reason, the Committee agreed it was essential that a skills test form part of the endorsement process. The skills test was initially devised by a former General Secretary of the General Federation of Trade Unions; it had input from the present SWU General Secretary and additional questions were set and agreed by the SWU Endorsement Committee. Any decision not to sit the test did not affect a candidate's right to stand for election or their eligibility.

Good luck to both Candidates

An update from your General Secretary

I hope this April newsletter finds you as well as can be.

You may notice I've stepped back from the front page this edition and quite rightly so. The election of a new General Secretary is a significant moment for SWU. I encourage you all to take the time to consider each candidate carefully: their strengths, what they bring to the role, and the depth of their knowledge and experience. The position of General Secretary extends far beyond social work practice alone, something I've come to understand firsthand.

The election for a new General Secretary is now underway. At SWU, we made a conscious decision not to engage on social media during the election process. While social media has its advantages, concerns about its toxicity informed this choice and this was why we made the decision not to do any posts or media activity unless formal emails direct to SWU members only.

We are aware that some members, as well as non-members, have shared opinions about our process. We welcome the opportunity to clarify any of our decisions, and as always, I am available via email for any queries from members. To recap, we have taken the following steps: Sought legal advice on the planned election process, contracted Civica UK to act as Election Scrutineer and Returning Officer - managing the ballot and electoral process, established an SWU Executive approved separate SWU Election Nominations Committee, announced the election and application process via SWU Newsletter and BASW PSW, provided candidates full guidance document regarding the election process, introduced a skills assessment test for our endorsement process, offered candidates the opportunity to participate in an official SWU Q&A/hustings - with questions submitted by members, provided update to members via direct email as the

only formal SWU pre ballot communication, provided enhanced electoral details in this newsletter, invited external social work media organisations opportunities to engage with candidates and shared relevant details. Finally, we arranged for the SWU ballot to go out via Civica UK with candidate electoral statements.



I would like to thank members who have supported the process, submitted questions to candidates for the Q/A Hustings, and contacted SWU directly allowing us to address and correct any misinformation and of course I want to thank the work of the SWU Election Nominations Committee. Reflecting on the SWU hustings, I acknowledge that the terminology may not have been ideal, and describing it as a Q&A might have been clearer. Nonetheless, it was a transparent and advertised process, with questions from the membership put directly to candidates. Personally, I did not have the opportunity to sit a skills test from the Executive at that time of my election but I would have embraced this opportunity and hopefully passed it.

Last month, SWU proudly marked World Social Work Day. First established in 2007, this important occasion celebrates the achievements of social workers, raises the profile of social services, and reinforces our collective commitment to social justice and human rights. I had the pleasure of taking part in several events and hope we can all continue to recognise and celebrate the incredible work we do not just on this day, but throughout the year.

I'm also pleased to share that the SWU Essay Competition was officially launched at the BASW Student Conference and is now open for applications. Please help us spread the word. If it would be useful, we are happy to

provide a separate PDF for members, student groups, or partner organisations. Further details can be found on page 9.

As ever, the union remains busy, but we are always keen to hear from members. Whether you're seeking campaigning support or simply want to get more involved in our work and activism, we welcome your engagement.

I'm also pleased to confirm that our 2025 annual returns are now complete. My thanks go, as always, to our accountants and auditors

for their diligence in reviewing our work and ensuring transparency in how members' funds are used. With our AR21 forms submitted to the Certification Office, members can now access the Annual Statement via the SWU website.

I look forward to announcing the new SWU General Secretary in the May edition of the newsletter.

John McGowan
General Secretary
j.mcgowan@swu-union.org.uk

Parliamentary monitoring report - March 2026



Cross-Party Group for Social Work

- **The CPG held an event** to celebrate World Social Work Day in the House of Commons on **17th March** alongside BASW.
- The event celebrated the value of social work with a focus on the positive impact it has on society.
- We aimed to secure positive coverage on social and mainstream media and offer an opportunity to educate and inform parliamentarians to counteract the negative comments about social workers in Parliament and on social media.

- MPs and Peers heard directly from social workers in the field.
- **Attendance:** Josh MacAlister, Children’s Minister, [Ian Byrne](#), Ian Lavery, Cat Smith and Rachael Maskell (all members of the CPG), Seamus Logan MP and Andy McDonald - invited to join. MPs took photos and shared positive messages about social workers on social media with the hashtag [#WSWD2026](#).
- Some MPs who weren’t able to attend posted a photo and message of support later including [Richard Burgon MP](#) and [Imran Hussain MP](#)
- Ian Byrne tabled [EDM 2979](#) to celebrate World Social Work Day. At the time of writing (24th March) 30 MPs had signed the EDM.
- We will be inviting all those who sign the EDM to join the CPG if they are not already a member.

Campaign Focus - Key Issues and Debates in Parliament

1. Anti-poverty

- **Right to Food Commission** - Ian Byrne MP asked the Government what assessment her Department has made of the potential merits of introducing a statutory right to food. Defra Minister, Dame Angela Eagle said; *‘Government are working across Departments to improve access to healthy and affordable food. We have already introduced the junk food ad ban and mandatory targets for healthier food sales from our food industry, and we are committed to breaking the link between obesity and poverty.’*
- **Child Poverty Strategy** - the Government added one update to the website [Child Poverty Strategy: Child Rights - GOV.UK](#) - This outlines how the government has considered the rights of children in developing the Child Poverty Strategy: Our Children, Our Future.

2. Workforce - working conditions, recruitment and retention, sharing research

- Latest [workforce figures](#) published by the **Department for Education** shows there were 5,416 agency children’s social workers in England employed at 30 September 2025, 4,391 of whom were covering vacancies in children’s services departments. This is down 16.9% or 1,114 workers compared to September 2024, when 6,520 were in post and 5,313 were covering vacancies. Minister hails steep decline in agency children's social workers as reported in [Children and Young People Now](#)
- The **Home Affairs Committee** published a report with recommendations to Government about their [“Earned Settlement” proposals](#)
- **Neil Duncan-Jordan MP** has criticised the Government’s “Earned Settlement” proposals because they may have an impact on underpaid social workers. <https://t.co/sjhlCyxfqk>

- **Opposition Day Debate on Student Loans - the Conservative Party** ‘calls on the Government to create more apprenticeships for 18-21 year olds, funded by controlling the number of places on university courses where the benefits are significantly outweighed by the cost to graduates and taxpayers.’ Ian Sollom MP Lib Dem spokesperson said; ‘Nursing, teaching, social work and creative arts all underperform on salary data while delivering enormous public value, so what logic are the Conservatives applying?’

3. **Social care reform - Casey Commission (Independent Commission on Adult Social Care), private sector funding, and Artificial Intelligence (AI)**

- Casey Commission - [March 2026 Newsletter: The journey to calling for a moment of reckoning on adult social care](#). The team have visited every English region, hearing first hand from people their experiences of social care. They have been looking at what has come before, what’s stopped previous attempts from progressing and speaking to experts about their ideas for change.
- Casey Commission - Organisations and members of the public can now submit their views on the Commission’s website: [Contact us | The Casey Commission](#)

Parliamentary Business that may affect Social Workers

Name	Inquiry /stage	Key dates/Action
Public Accounts Committee	Financial sustainability of adult hospices in England	Report published March 2026
Assisted Dying Bill	House of Lords - see above notes	In progress
Children’s Wellbeing and Schools Bill Committee	House of Lords - see above notes	In progress
Mental Health Act	Received Royal Assent	Now in statute
Education Select Committee	Children and Young People’s Mental Health	Call for evidence - Deadline 27 th March
Education Select Committee	Deliver the Child Poverty Strategy	Oral evidence sessions
Education Select Committee	Early Years: Improving Support for Children and Families	Oral evidence sessions
Health and Social Care Committee	Community Mental Health Services	Report published March 2026
H&SC Select Committee	Inquiry - The first 1000 days of life	Report due 22 nd March 2026 (overdue)

WORLD SOCIAL WORK DAY ASSIGNMENT

The Social Workers Union (SWU) have announced the theme for their annual World Social Work Day student essay competition.

The prize: Four grants of £500

The criteria: A 750 - 1000 word assignment written by a Social Work Student undertaking an Undergraduate or Post Graduate Social Work Degree in the UK, Social Work Apprentices and students undertaking specialist pathway routes.

WORLD SOCIAL WORK DAY
17 MARCH 2026
#WSWD2026
#SWUAssignment

CO-BUILDING
Hope & Harmony

A Harambee
Call to Unite a
Divided Society

www.ifsw.org

The question posed is:

"How can the social work profession push back against far-right narratives of division, and how can social workers co-build solidarity and hope across communities?"

All completed assignments will be judged by a Panel.

Please forward your completed assignment before Sunday 14th June 2026 with a covering letter giving your Name, Address, Telephone Contact Number, University, Year of Study and Academic Tutor (if appropriate) or details of Apprentice Social Work Programme and Supervisor/Manager to:
joanne.marciano@swu-union.org.uk

The assignment should be typed, have your full name, the assignment question as the title, and must follow an academic process; such as word count and Harvard Referencing System.

Please note: By taking part you are agreeing to SWU using the assignment for future purposes such as newsletters or other forums. Only the winning assignments will be used.

<https://swu-union.org.uk/world-social-work-day-student-essay-competition>



SWU Social Workers Union
Austerity Action Group



SWU Social Workers Union
Campaign Fund



SWU Social Workers Union
Union Contacts



SWU Social Workers Union
Talk to SWU
workplace issues webinar

Dave Callow, SWU Chair reports on his Social Work Day Event

This year's World Social Work Day had a different feel to it for me. Maybe it was because we were at the University of Lincoln - there was something about being on home ground that made the whole day feel more connected. And throughout every conversation, whether it was a quick chat over pizza or coffee or a deeper discussion in a workshop, one theme kept popping up again: belonging.

Not the kind of belonging that gets thrown around as a buzzword, but the real, lived kind. The kind you feel in your workplace, in your team, in the profession itself. It felt like people weren't just talking about it - they were questioning it, trying to understand what it means in practice.

What really struck me though, was hearing from the next generation of social workers. Their honesty, their confidence, their willingness to challenge things that aren't working - it was refreshing and inspiring. I found myself listening a lot more than talking, but it felt right. There was something humbling about it, realising just how much wisdom and clarity they already bring.

And what I loved was the way they talked about belonging. Not only in terms of the people and families we support, but also how belonging plays out in communities, in systems, and in the profession itself. They weren't shying away from the hard questions either - like what it means to belong in a sector that can sometimes feel stretched, pressured, or even fractured.



There was a definite shift in how people framed it too. It wasn't about belonging as something you "give" to someone or something you "achieve." It was more about something you build with others, something that takes time, trust, and a willingness to change your own practice. It reminded me that belonging isn't passive - it's active.

Listening to these students made me feel genuinely hopeful. You can already see the future of social work forming in how they think, how they speak up, how they hold values at the centre of everything. They're the voices we need to shape what comes next.

That's where SWU comes in as well. We've got such an important role in amplifying new voices, pushing for fairness, and making sure belonging isn't just a theme for one day - but something that steers decisions and practice.

This World Social Work Day reminded me that belonging isn't a destination. It's something we come back to, something we nurture, something we grow. And with the passion, energy, and courage coming from the next generation, I honestly feel optimistic about where the profession is heading.

I've also been thinking about the march in London on 28th March against the far right. For me, being there isn't really about the march itself - it's about standing by the principles we say we're committed to. Social work is rooted in human rights, in social justice, in anti-oppressive practice. That means we can't just sit on the sidelines when policies and the

current divisions within our society threaten people's dignity or safety. It's part of who we are as a profession to push back.

I know not everyone can be there for many reasons. And that doesn't make their voice any less important. Showing up takes different forms. Sometimes it's being there in person. Sometimes it's speaking out in your workplace, having the hard conversations, or supporting others behind the scenes. Every bit of it matters.

If anything, World Social Work week reminded me how powerful we are when we act collectively - when we listen, challenge, reflect, and support one another. And I'm grateful to have been part of those conversations.

Dave Callow is a qualified social worker, senior lecturer and programme lead for the MSc Social Work Degree at the University of Lincoln and SWU Chair.

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SWU Social Workers Union

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The *Employment Rights Act 2025* became law on 18th December 2025. It is being implemented gradually.

What parts of the Act are already in force?

Industrial action

The first changes which came into effect, however, concerned trade unions and industrial action. The Strikes (Minimum Service Levels) Act 2023 was repealed entirely in December 2025. The Tory government had intended it would make strikes in many public services almost impossible. However, it was never used and is now gone.

Some further changes came into effect from 18th February 2026, mainly reversing restrictions on trade unions and industrial action brought in by the Trade Union Act 2016.

This includes removing the additional threshold of 40% support for industrial action in “important public services” and the lengthening of the period of an industrial action mandate from six to 12 months. The notice unions must give of intended industrial action has reduced from 14 to 10 days.

Unions no longer need to inform the employer in advance of how many employees are expected to take part in the action, industrial action ballot papers have been simplified and, once industrial action has started, there is now no requirement to appoint a picket supervisor to monitor picket lines.

Section 77 ERA 25 has removed the protected period for automatic protection from unfair dismissal for taking part in protected industrial action. Previously, protection from dismissal only usually lasted for the first 12 weeks of industrial action, but this 12-week limit has now been removed.

Protective awards

The next wave of changes are effective from 6 April 2026. The first of these is that s30 ERA 25 doubles the maximum “protective award” to 180 days’ pay.

Protective awards are made when an employer fails to properly consult with unions or employee representatives about collective redundancies.

Protective awards are intended to punish employers for their failure to follow the law.

Many people will remember that in 2022, P&O dismissed 800 employees without any consultation. P&O made a deliberate decision to ignore the law because that was cheaper than employing the workers while they consulted.

The increased protective award should ensure that employers treat workers and unions properly when considering large-scale redundancies.

Leave for family reasons

There are also changes from April 2026 to leave for family reasons. Paternity leave becomes a “day one right”, whereas previously the employee needed 26 weeks’ service to qualify. Restrictions on taking paternity leave after shared parental leave are also removed.

However, the requirement for 26 weeks’ continuous employment to qualify for paternity pay remains in place. This means that while paternity leave is a day one right, unless the employer’s contracts and policies provide differently, for the first 26 weeks of employment the leave is unpaid.

From April, unpaid parental leave, which currently requires a year’s service, also becomes a day one right. Separately, the Bereaved Partner’s Paternity Leave Regulations 2026 introduce a welcome new right to up to 52 weeks’ bereaved partner’s paternity leave (BPPL) where the mother or adopter of a child dies in childbirth, or within a year of the birth or adoption. This leave, however, is unpaid.

Employers will need to create action plans around menopause and gender pay gaps. These are voluntary from 6th April 2026. They will become mandatory sometime in 2027.

From April 2026, s23 ERA 25 specifies that the definition of a “qualifying disclosure” under whistleblowing law will include disclosures that “sexual harassment has occurred, is occurring or is likely to occur”. This will mean protection from detriment and unfair dismissal for whistleblowers making a sexual harassment disclosure.

These changes are all very welcome and significant. However, the biggest change being introduced from April 2026 is one which has not been widely discussed.

Statutory Sick Pay changes

From April 2026, s11 ERA 25 removes the “lower earnings limit” and abolishes the “waiting period” for Statutory Sick Pay (SSP). Previously SSP was only payable from the fourth day of sickness, and workers had to earn a minimum average amount to be eligible for SSP at all. In 2025-6 this limit was £125 per week.

Around 25% of all employees receive only SSP during a period of sickness absence, and because of the lower earnings limit, an estimated 1.3 million workers received no sick pay at all. These changes mean all these workers will receive sick pay of up to 80% of their wages from their first day of absence.

Impact on women

The vast majority of workers earning below £125 per week are women. In the past, they have faced a terrible choice whenever they fall ill. Around 4.7 million women will benefit from stronger sick pay rights, including more than 830,000 women who will receive sick pay for the first time.

Paul Nowak, TUC general secretary, said “for too long women have borne the brunt of a sick pay system that is not fit for purpose”. Fixing this system is a momentous step forward for some of the most marginalised and vulnerable workers in the country.



This year to support IWD 2026, we are highlighting an issue that disproportionately affects women and girls - digital violence.

On International Women's Day (IWD) on 8th March we took part in a day of collective global activism and celebration that belongs to all those committed to forging gender equality. The 2026 theme of **Give To Gain** emphasises the power of reciprocity and support:

"Giving is not a subtraction, it's intentional multiplication. When women thrive, we all rise.

"Whether through donations, knowledge, resources, infrastructure, visibility, advocacy, education, training, mentoring, or time, contributing to women's advancement helps create a more supportive and interconnected world."

Digital violence is one of the fastest-evolving forms of abuse worldwide.

Digital violence is abusive behaviour that includes online harassment, hacking, stalking, impersonation, misinformation, defamation, hate speech, violent threats, doxxing, deepfakes, and non-consensual sharing of intimate images. It occurs on social media platforms, messaging apps, online gaming, and smart home devices used for monitoring or remote access.

Women are likely to experience digital violence more frequently than men and have to deal with it over longer periods of time. Amnesty International's recent research revealed that it is widespread in the UK with one in five women having suffered online abuse or harassment. Almost half of women said the abuse or harassment they received was sexist or misogynistic, with a worrying 27% saying it threatened sexual or physical assault.

While all women and girls are at risk, some women and girls are disproportionately affected including those who are in public life (such as journalists, human rights defenders, politicians, feminist activists), come from a culturally or linguistically diverse background, live with disability, identify as LGBTQIA+, or are experiencing domestic, family or sexual violence .

The [2024 report of the UN Secretary-General on violence against women and girls](#) identified three growing challenges that are intensifying this violence:

- Anti-rights actors are actively working to undermine, stall, or reverse the recognition, protection, and advancement of human rights - their targets include gender equality, LGBT+ rights, racial equality, and immigrant rights. They are increasingly using online spaces to create a hostile digital environment for women and girls.
- The rapid and unregulated growth of artificial intelligence (AI). AI is facilitating the spread of targeted disinformation as well as the proliferation of image-based abuse and deepfake pornographic videos. A 2023 report showed that [deepfake pornography made up 98% of all deepfake videos online](#), and 99% depicted women.
- The expansion of the [manosphere](#), which is an ecosystem of misogynistic content that is seeping into mainstream culture and making its way into schoolyards, workplaces, and intimate relationships. The popularity of extreme language in the manosphere not only [normalises violence against women and girls](#), but has growing links to radicalisation and extremist ideologies.

Social workers have increasingly been targeted through doxxing.

The sensitive nature of social work - of which the majority of practitioners are women - has contributed to social workers being increasingly targeted through doxxing. Doxxing is the deliberate publication of personal information online without consent. This information can include someone's home address, phone number, and other personal and identifying information.

Doxxing is often done with the intention to intimidate, harass, or undermine confidence in professional practice. It can pose a threat to the safety of not only the person being targeted but also to their family. Some [very serious doxxing instances reported by our members](#) led to the

development of [guidance for journalists](#) on how to responsibly report stories concerning social workers and cases involving vulnerable individuals.



Reducing the risk of doxxing: A mini guide for social workers



The deliberate publication of personal information online without consent, often with the intention to intimidate, harass, or undermine confidence in professional practice



This guidance outlines practical measures to reduce risk and ensure personal and professional safety online



You have the right to safety, privacy, and protection at work

The Scottish Association of Social Work (SASW) and the Social Workers Union (SWU) have also now created [a free guide with proactive steps that you can take to protect your digital footprint](#). This guidance can be used by social workers across the UK and you are welcome to download it and share it with your team and colleagues.



THE COUNTDOWN IS ON

We're one step closer to Free School Meals for All. Thanks to educators, parents, and No Child Left Behind's 350+ strong coalition that includes the Social Workers Union (SWU), civil society organisations, public figures, and MPs who fought hard for this change.

But what about the children who will still be told there's "no room at the table"?

In London and Wales, every child in primary school gets a Free School Meal. Boosting healthy eating. Easing pressure on family time and finances. Equipping every child with the fuel to learn. A hot, healthy school dinner is an essential for every child, just like desks or school supplies.

Means testing will always mean some children are left out. In England, all pupils in Reception through Y2 get Free School Meals already. Why should it be any different for a child in Year 3 and up?

It's simple: Free School Meals for All is the future we want for our schools.

Sign the petition and tell the Prime Minister to deliver the dinners for every primary school child in England:

<https://deliverthedinners.org.uk>


"This patchwork of different policies is illogical and self-defeating."
CARA PAGE,
HEADTEACHER, ALL SAINTS CHURCH OF
ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL COVENTRY

"I am a single struggling mum. My child gets a Free School Meal at the moment, but next year that all changes. I am so worried about this. Knowing my child gets one free hot meal a day is an absolute weight off. I am begging the government to please provide Free School Meals for all school children and lift this pressure for so many struggling families."
PARENT, WIGAN

*Free School Meals
for All*
**CHILDREN
SHOULD
EAT, LEARN
AND GROW
TOGETHER**

Hundreds of social workers forced to cover basic essentials for vulnerable people from their own pockets



The Government's new Crisis and Resilience Fund may still fall short of preventing frontline social workers from having to step in personally to support people in crisis.

Social Workers Union (SWU) research, which was contributed to by social workers across the UK, has uncovered hundreds of social workers saying they have felt compelled to step in and personally fund basic items for people they support - from food to energy prepayment meter top-ups.

The [Crisis and Resilience Fund](#), which is due to begin on 1st April, is intended to support local authorities in England to provide faster emergency support for households in hardship. However, SWU is warning that the Fund may not go far enough to prevent social workers continuing to plug gaps themselves, particularly where crises arise suddenly or systems remain slow and bureaucratic.

More than 380 social workers affected by the issue took part in the research last summer, with three in four (75%) saying they were unable to claim back the costs they incurred on behalf of service users.

The overwhelming majority had to buy food (87%), while others were compelled to pay for public transport (36%), clothing (26%), cleaning supplies (24%), and top up energy prepayment meters (19%) to keep people warm.

Despite 86% of social workers trying to secure support via foodbanks, council-run household support funds and local charities, seven in ten times (70%) they were faced with an emergency that left no time to navigate complex or slow bureaucratic systems.

John McGowan, SWU General Secretary, has warned the findings expose a “*broken support system*”: “*It cannot be right that social workers are left to plug the gaps in a broken support system with their own money. While the new Crisis and Resilience Fund is a welcome step, it will not solve the problem on its own if support remains slow, complex or hard to access in an emergency.*”

“The data paints a stark picture of a safety net riddled with delays and gaps. The true test of the new Fund moving forward will be to see if it means that local and national governments act urgently to ensure help is there when it is needed.”

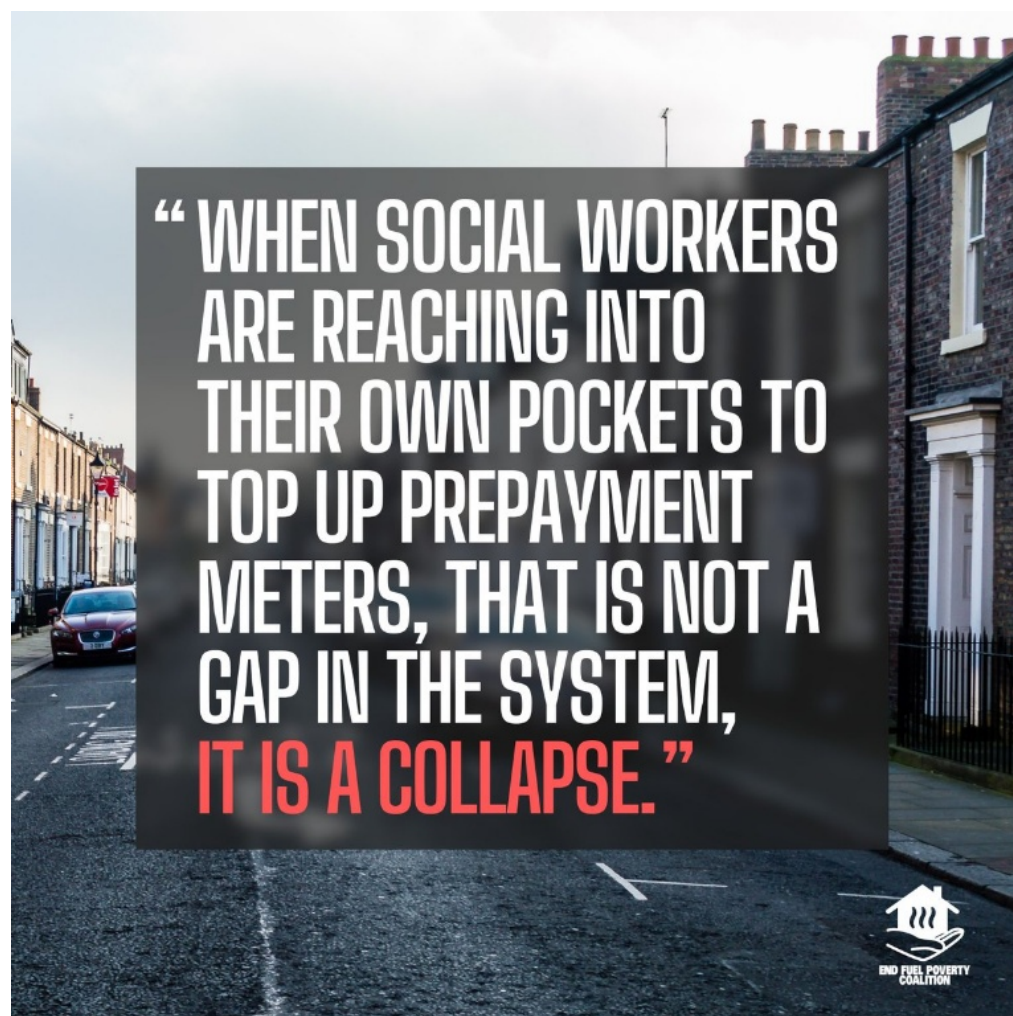
Though over half of social workers affected (58%) described such payments as rare, more than a quarter (27%) said they were dipping into their own pockets every month, with nearly one in ten (9%) doing so even more regularly. Most contributions were under £25, but one in twenty social workers spent more than £100.

Over a third (36%) said helping clients put their own finances at risk, highlighting how the cost-of-living crisis is now affecting not just vulnerable families, but the very workers tasked with protecting them.

Asked why they had resorted to providing direct financial support to service users, one social worker told researchers:

“There are often several real forms to fill out to request financial support which are declined anyhow by managers. To save time - something we don't often have - I've paid for items myself.”

Another claimed that their local authority *“has restricted food bank vouchers to 3 per year”* while another stated that their *“Service user was unable to access internet or navigate lengthy online forms.”* One went so far as to say that there just was no longer any support left to apply for.



A spokesperson for the [End Fuel Poverty Coalition](#), commented:

“These findings are a damning indictment of a support system that is failing people at their most vulnerable. When social workers are reaching into their own pockets to top up prepayment meters and keep someone's heating on, that is not a gap in the system, it is a collapse.”

“The new Crisis and Resilience Fund is a step forward, and the confirmation by Ministers that it will extend to households

on heating oil and LPG in England is welcome. For the first time, some of the most exposed households, those off the gas grid and outside the protection of the energy price cap, will have access to emergency support.

“But the Fund will only work if it reaches people in time. Seven in ten emergencies left no time to navigate slow or complex systems. The Government must ensure the Fund is fast, accessible and properly resourced, so that social workers are never again left to pay for someone's heating out of their own pocket.”

The Social Workers Union invited all members and the wider social work community in the UK to respond to a survey between 14th May and 4th August 2025. 500 social workers responded of which 380 had provided direct financial support to service users.



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I didn't disclose my care-experience until my 7th year post qualifying as a social worker. Here's why.

A piece written for World Social Work Day 2026

I didn't disclose my care-experience until my 7th year post qualifying as a social worker. And yet in many ways, it was my greatest asset.

There are so many ways I could have evidenced my resilience in interviews - the fact I had applied to university from a mental health inpatient ward, how I had written A level papers in the dark when the electric meter ran out, or how I had to balance three jobs just to stay afloat during the long university summers. But I didn't.

So too could I have spoken about the lived and learned insight I would bring to the table. Having experienced countless multi-agency meetings, social work visits and placement moves, I had practical suggestions as to how each could be made a little less daunting. But again, I didn't.

The cost felt too high. I'd heard about people making personal disclosures which were treated as threats to competency - of referrals to Occupational Therapy, or restricted working being put in place. I didn't have the language back then around psychological safety or inclusive practices. But to be fair, neither did the system at large.

By the time I finally did disclose, I was no longer in frontline practice. What made it possible was being part of a kind, caring team where our code of ethics wasn't a dead document but something to be lived by. Where discussions around intersectionality and identity weren't just a tick-boxy thing, but were embedded into our weekly check ins which combined reflection, action and humour. Where I could reach out to any colleague for a debrief over a virtual cuppa. But often I was contacted by them first - whenever major policy announcements were made around care-experience, people checked in with me privately. This took the mental load out of the equation entirely.

This World Social Work Day, I want to make the path a little less isolating for anyone navigate working within the very systems which may have helped and/or harmed them. It takes enormous strength, courage and resilience to return to these spaces. Here is what I'd ask local authorities/other organisations to take on board:

1. It can be extremely isolating to exist in a system as someone with lived experience where even the most compassionate teams subconsciously hold an 'us and them' mentality. The best way to counter this is not just to up-skill all staff around inclusion, but to actively recruit more people with lived experience - or make it safe enough for the ones already there to say so.
2. As well as stating that lived experience is welcome in applications, spell out what this could include. Many children and young people who receive services may not recognise themselves through the jargon-heavy language we use. I didn't come across the term 'care-experienced' until my mid-twenties and so I'd have missed the boat. For those identifying as having lived experience, consider offering a bursary to cover the practical costs. Even travelling to interview can be a genuine barrier.
3. Establish care-experienced champions who hold the role voluntarily and can be approached in confidence. These individuals could offer informal advocacy, help someone think through whether and how to disclose to colleagues, or accompany them to conversations with managers if needed. The role works best when it sits outside line management entirely. Their support should be made known at the start of the onboarding process right through to exit interviews.

4. Audit your team-building activities. The seemingly innocuous "guess the baby photo" icebreaker or show and tell activity can land very differently where connections to the past are lost or inaccessible.
5. Be mindful around key dates. Christmas, birthdays, Mother's Day, Father's Day and certain religious or cultural celebrations may carry grief, complexity or painful associations.
6. Create a culture where lived experience is celebrated at all levels, including senior leadership. Where leaders feel safe to share, visibility normalises disclosure. This might look as simple as a line in an email signature, a staff profile that includes lived experience alongside professional background, or a senior leader speaking openly at an all-staff event (always on an opt-in, consent-led basis and with appropriate support).
7. Offer opt-in opportunities for care-experienced staff to connect with one another - a peer network, an informal lunch, an online group, with no pressure to attend or participate.
8. Assumptions about competence, objectivity, or whether someone is "too close" to the work need to be named and challenged routinely. No one should be deprived of opportunities to grow and develop based on bias or judgement. Involve the wider workforce in equality, diversity and inclusion education that specifically covers lived experience. Care-experienced colleagues shouldn't have to carry the labour of educating their peers.
9. Where care-experienced staff are invited to contribute their insight, to service design, training, consultation, ensure this is appropriately remunerated or recognised. Lived experience is expertise. At the same time, don't assume every care-experienced social worker wants to be the voice of care experience in every room. Nor will they wish to be pigeonholed as having expertise in this area alone.
10. Don't assume additional support is needed, but make it genuinely available. A buddy system, a designated room to decompress where needed, or a code word to signal discomfort can go a long way. The offer matters even when it isn't taken up.
11. Finally, connect with the Association of Care Experienced Social Workers and make this organisation known to staff (not just those with lived experience, but allies too).

In truth, even if all of the above were in place, I'm still not sure I'd have disclosed any earlier. The messages about care-experienced people at large in media, culture and beyond have created stigma that feels impossible to tackle, at times. But I hope that the option is there for the next generation.

Care-experienced social workers have already done the hardest work imaginable. It's over to organisations to do the rest.

About the author



Rebekah Pierre is a care-experienced author, registered social worker campaigner, as well as the Deputy Director of Article 39 - a small charity which fights for the rights of children in institutional settings. She has written extensively about the care system in publications such as The Guardian, Independent, and Radio 4. Her recently published book, 'Free loaves on Fridays: the care system as told by people who actually get it', is the largest known anthology of care-experience, featuring the voices of 100 children and adults with lived experience of the care system.

WORLD SOCIAL WORK DAY

17 MARCH 2026
#WSWD2026

SWU Social
Workers
Union

BASW

The professional association for
social work and social workers

CO BUILDING
Hope & Harmony

A Harambee
Call to Unite a
Divided Society



World Social Work Day 2026

World Social Work Day (WSWD) celebrates social work, social workers, and the contribution our profession makes to society. This year the Social Workers Union (SWU) and the British Association of Social Workers (BASW) took this celebration to Westminster with the second meeting of the [Cross-Party Group for Social Work](#). As reflected by this year's WSWD theme of Harambee or "pulling together", we are co-building a parliamentary space to promote dialogue with decision makers, solidarity with social work, and our joint campaign's asks to improve working conditions for social workers.



SWU General Secretary John McGowan, Ian Byrne MP, and BASW CEO Prof Sam Baron

This event was a valuable opportunity for SWU and BASW to gather more political support for our "Stronger Social Work, Better Lives" campaign; the more politicians we have on board, the stronger our case to the government! You can read more about the campaign asks and the launch of the CPG here: <https://swu-union.org.uk/2025/10/swu-and-basw-launch-new-cross-party-group-to-focus-on-social-work-issues-at-westminster>

SWU would like to especially thank Cross-Party Group for Social Work chair **Ian Byrne MP** and his team who arranged the lovely Jubilee meeting room for the event at no cost and encouraged colleagues to support SWU and BASW's campaign.

Ian Byrne MP said,

"Social workers play a huge role in our society, supporting some of the most vulnerable children and adults during the most challenging periods in their lives. We expect them to deal with issues, many of which are created by the structural disadvantage baked into our society. As parliamentarians, we have a duty to meet with them, to listen to them and work

with them to help solve the underlying causes of cyclical poverty, such as a shortage of decent housing and equal access to good education and quality jobs. As Chair of the Cross-Party Group for Social Work, I am delighted to support this crucial opportunity for social workers on World Social Work Day."

A huge thank you also goes to SWU Ambassador **Professor Jermaine Ravalier** at Buckinghamshire New University for generously donating the catering for the event. Jermaine is a lead author of *Reflective Supervision: A Best Practice Guide*, which is practical and co-developed guidance for social workers receiving reflective supervision, and those facilitating the supervision session. You can download a free copy of this guide here: <https://swu-union.org.uk/resources-training/swu-bnu-reflective-supervision-best-practice-guide-2024>

We are thrilled to have the support and opportunity to run these high impact events in Westminster at a low cost to our membership.

Our members spoke directly to MPs about their working conditions and concerns.

In order to achieve a better supported, valued, and understood social work profession it is vitally important that policymakers hear from social workers directly. A group of SWU and BASW members spoke to MPs about their social work practice, how they support individuals and communities on a daily basis, and the workforce challenges that they want to see addressed.



SWU General Secretary John McGowan and Prof Jermaine Ravalier



Tricia Hunte, a social worker from London, said that some social workers on the frontline were experiencing burnout because they are working under a state of anxiety and pressure, with insufficient clinical supervision. She warned MPs that this resulted in social workers “escalating through the ranks”, experiencing burnout, and leaving the profession. She called on MPs to support the profession so that “we don’t lose society’s safety net”.

Chrissie Beatty, SWU Vice Chair and a social worker from Bournemouth, called on MPs to recognise social workers as a “pillar of society”.

The group of practising social workers from across the UK, many with over twenty years of experience, told MPs of their love of the job and their commitment to serve their communities but warned that there is a need to protect the workforce and make social worker wellbeing a priority. Social workers said that with more families facing crisis and dementia diagnosis increasing, the demand for support is rising fast.



We were also joined at the event by Minister for Children & Families in England **Josh MacAlister MP** who meet with some of our members and, in his speech, spoke about the history of social work with reference to Clement Attlee’s book *The Social Worker* published in 1920 and about how we are still wrestling with some of the same questions today.

The social worker audience was delighted to hear the Minister say that the Government would be investing in professional development for social workers, especially those going into the field for the first time. He expressed concern about new social workers routinely being left to figure things out for themselves without the necessary structure and support.

SWU and BASW called for all parliamentarians to support social workers by developing a robust recruitment and retention strategy to prevent soaring caseloads and social worker burnout.



*SWU General Secretary John McGowan and
BASW CEO Prof Sam Baron*

We pay tribute to the importance of social work values this day and every day.”

SWU and BASW are grateful that Ministers are listening and engaging so strongly with us. We look forward to continuing this important relationship over the course of this parliament to help bring about vital improvements to our profession that social workers desperately need to see.

Early Day Motion (EDM 2927)

Thank you Cross-Party Group for Social Work chair **Ian Byrne MP** for your tireless support for and solidarity with the social work profession and for working with SWU and BASW to table the World Social Work Day Early Day Motion #2927. We are thrilled this EDM that recognises the important role of social workers across the UK and calls for better support for the social work profession is quickly gaining signatures: <https://edm.parliament.uk/early-day-motion/65430>

John McGowan, General Secretary of SWU said: “Despite increasing pressures such as limited resources and high workloads, many social workers remain deeply committed to supporting vulnerable individuals, families, and communities. SWU thanks all the MPs and Peers who have joined our Cross Party Group and we look forward to working with them in the coming months to help us ensure that the recruitment and retention of registered social workers becomes a parliamentary priority.”

Chief Executive of BASW, **Prof Sam Baron** said: “Social workers are uniquely placed to champion people’s dignity, rights, social justice, and inclusion at times of uncertainty in their lives and when their communities and networks feel at risk of fracture. That responsibility never feels more critical than at present.

“We mustn’t forget, today is also a day to celebrate social work’s successes and to recognise the vast contributions of social workers in the UK and around the globe.



*BASW/SWU A&R Trade Union Official
Lyse Hurd, social worker Megan MacGranahan,
and BASW/SWU A&R Trade Union Official
Tracy Liu*

This EDM represents a significant milestone in our campaign for improved working conditions as the more MPs we can get to sign it, the more pressure is applied on the government to respond. It's encouraging to see 30 MPs have already added their support, we need to keep applying pressure on the powers that be if we are to affect the change that social workers desperately need to see.

Has your MP signed the motion yet? If not, ask them to: <https://members.parliament.uk/FindYourMP> If you would like to be involved in supporting SWU and BASW's work with the Cross-Party Group for Social Work please contact us at: campaigns@swu-union.org.uk



Cat Smith MP



Rachael Maskell MP



Richard Burgon MP

Early Day Motion 2979

World Social Work day 2026

Motion Text:

That this House marks World Social Work Day 2026 as an opportunity to celebrate the incredibly important role the social work profession holds within our society; recognises the support social workers provide to vulnerable individuals, families, and communities to improve their circumstances every single day; appreciates those who work in adult social care, child social care, social care with people with disabilities, and more, in equal measure; acknowledges the deep commitment shown by social workers in supporting these vulnerable people, despite growing pressures such as increasingly limited resources and higher workloads; notes this crucial work at a time when their pay struggles to keep pace with the high cost of living; applauds the continuing commitment to the highest quality of care in spite of all of these challenges; commits to highlighting the current issues surrounding the recruitment and retention of social work staff; thanks the Social Workers Union and British Association of Social Workers for their continued support of the new Right To Food UK Commission; supports the Social Workers Union and British Association of Social Workers joint campaign to improve working conditions for social workers; and encourages UK Parliamentarians to join the Cross-Party Group for Social Work, to better understand the importance of social work in our society and to champion the role of our social workers.



It's time to Make Green Fair!

It's like 2022 all over again. The cost of energy that keeps us warm, clean, dry, and fed is surging because of another illegal war.

This government and the previous one failed to learn lessons and insulate us from more price spikes as the world becomes more and more unstable. We need to act now.

The Social Workers Union (SWU) is supporting Fuel Poverty Action and the End Fuel Poverty Coalition in calling on the UK Government to [Make Green Fair](#).



We should all be getting our fair share of cheap, clean energy from our wind and sun, to guarantee essential heating, hot water, washing, lighting and cooking for everyone. Instead, in its present delivery, energy inequality is getting worse and green measures mainly benefit the well-off. One in five UK households struggle to heat their homes. Due to profiteering, subsidies, levies, market distortions, and waste we are paying ever higher prices for energy that is becoming cheaper to produce.

Ordinary people aren't enjoying the benefits of energy that is produced at a cheaper cost. These failures are deepening a damaging political divide, where real injustices are seized upon by the far right and become a pretext for distorted narratives and misinformation.

Fuel Poverty Action is launching an [open letter](#), signed by more than 50 organisations, including SWU, the [End Fuel Poverty Coalition](#), Greenpeace, [350.org](#), War on Want, PCS Union, and national groups representing pensioners, parents, and students calling on the government to Make Green Fair.

This letter is asking this Government to:

1. Commit to embedding the principle of equitable benefits from the energy transition into all Government and Ofgem policies and plans.
2. Agree to meet with the undersigned organisations to discuss how this principle can be best delivered in practice.
3. Incorporate an energy saving guarantee into the Warm Homes Plan, to ensure that work delivers on the improvements and bill savings promised.

Let's help Fuel Poverty Action in building pressure to win our fair share of cheap, clean **energy for all**.

Sign the petition to **Make Green Fair**:

<https://actionnetwork.org/petitions/make-green-fair>

Right To Food UK Commission - How to get involved!

After formally launching in Parliament on 17th November 2025, [the Right to Food UK Commission held its first evidence session in Liverpool in January 2026](#), followed by sessions in Newcastle, Belfast, Glasgow, Cardiff, and London. Each session was preceded by a citizen's assembly so that people's lived experience fully informs the work of the Commission.

The Commission's objective is to shine a light on the unacceptable nature of food insecurity in Britain, map out solutions to endemic food insecurity, and apply pressure on the UK Government, devolved administrations, and politicians and policy makers in all UK jurisdictions to tackle and end food insecurity in the UK.

The Social Workers Union (SWU) and British Association of Social Workers (BASW) back the Right To Food UK Commission and there are many ways for you to get involved in the important work it does:



 **RIGHT TO FOOD UK COMMISSION**

CALL FOR EVIDENCE



Have you submitted your evidence to the Right To Food UK Commission yet?

We really want to hear from you.

1. Submit Evidence to the Commission:

We are collecting evidence from individuals, community leaders, community groups, non-government organisations, civil society organisations, academics, food service providers, health and social workers, activists and more. This is an opportunity to contribute your experiences and ideas to help reduce the numbers of people who go to bed hungry in the UK. Your inputs will contribute to the Commission's roadmap to Right to Food legislation, which will use evidence submitted to develop an Action Plan for the UK to make this a reality by 2030. [Submit your evidence here.](#)

2. Community (Individual) Voices - Share your views:

We really want to hear from people with lived experience of food insecurity. Please share your views about feeding yourselves and your families and help to shape the work of the Right To Food UK Commission.

[Click here to complete the Community Voices Survey.](#)



 **RIGHT TO FOOD UK COMMISSION**

COMMUNITY VOICES



Please share your views about feeding yourselves and your families and help to shape the work of the Commission.



3. Ask your MP to support Early Day Motion 2678:

You can ask your own MP to sign [Early Day Motion 2678](#) in support of the Right To Food UK Commission.

➔ Look up your MP using the [UK Parliament “Find Your MP” tool](#) and email them in your own words - a short, personal message is powerful.

You can use the wording below as a starting point if you wish:

“As your constituent, I’m asking you to support [Early Day Motion 2678](#) tabled by Ian Byrne MP on the work of the Right to Food UK Commission.

Everyone should have secure access to good food, and I believe Parliament has a vital role in making this a reality. Please add your name to EDM 2678 and show your support for the Commission’s work.”

➔ Tell us when you’ve contacted them. This helps us track national momentum and identify where more engagement is needed. You can do this by copying in Commission Vice Chair Ian Byrne MP to your email using ian.byrne.mp@parliament.uk

4. Deliver your own workshop session to feed into the Commission

Another great way to get involved is to organise and deliver your own workshop/ session to feed into the work of the Commission. We have prepared a ‘Workshop-in-a-box’ toolkit comprising a ready-to-go [Slide Deck](#) and a step-by-step [Facilitator Guide](#) to support you.



Learn more about the Commission here: <https://www.ianbyrne.org/rtfcommission>

Photograph credit: Alexandra Sutton



Marching with the Together Alliance

We know we can change things when we stand together.

The voices of division in our country are growing louder and more confident. The UK is facing far-right politics topping the polls and far-right protests in our streets mobilising in unprecedented numbers.



Their false promises seize on the very real economic problems people face with the aim of scapegoating migrants, Muslims, and refugees. They are trying to turn whole communities against marginalised groups, trying to turn us against our neighbours.



This is why SWU is proud to have marched with our members, our affiliate the General Federation of Trade Unions (GFTU), and other fellow trade unionists in the Together Alliance's Trade Union bloc in London on Saturday 28th March. We are showing politicians that the majority of people in this country stand for unity, not

division. We stand with the Together Alliance's coalition of organisations representing over 7 million people who are committed to defending human rights and solidarity with marginalised communities.

SWU Chair Dave Callow led our members in the march and said, "Being part of the March in the TU bloc was incredibly moving. Standing shoulder to shoulder with colleagues and fellow unions filled me with hope and solidarity. SWU was proud to stand alongside others, creating a powerful sense of unity and positivity even in what often feels like the darkest of times within our history. Thank you to everyone who attended the march and thank you to those who supported the demonstration in other ways as well."

On Saturday 28th March we mobilised in mass for love, hope, and unity in the face of hate, fear, and division. This is our first public action to stop the rise of the far-right. We hope you will join us for the next one.



SWU Vice Chair, GFTU President, SWU Chair marching together



Left: GFTU General Secretary, Gawain Little - one of the organisers of the event

Below left: Ian Byrne, MP, Chair of the SW Cross Party Group marching with some of the other politicians

Below right: SWU members enjoying the march



Social Media

If you have not done so then please follow us on Social Media - we post regular updates about the work and developments of the Social Workers Union.

Monthly Newsletter

Monthly newsletters are emailed to all SWU members. If you are not receiving this then please check what email address we have. The newsletters are also published on the web site.

SWU can be found on the following:

- Internet: <https://swu-union.org.uk>
- Twitter: https://twitter.com/SWU_UK
- Facebook: www.facebook.com/socialworkersunionuk/
- YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/@socialworkersunion>
- Instagram: www.instagram.com/socialworkersunion
- LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/company/social-workers-union>
- Bluesky: <https://bsky.app/profile/swu-uk.bsky.social>

Only **£35** a year with your present BASW membership (**£10** a year for students)

Every year, the Social Workers Union skilled TU Officers help Social Workers with a range of different situations, from the small and easily resolved, to more significant and prolonged conduct issues. Disciplinary and grievance procedures, including representation at internal hearings - this is only guaranteed if you are a SWU member.

Remember - investigations into professional social work practice and allegations of misconduct - where this is done by your employer, representation is only guaranteed* if you are a member of SWU.

SWU sits on the National Executive of the General Federation of Trade Unions. Have a look at the access you get as a member of GFTU training and development. SWU is one of the fastest growing unions in the UK - be part of the progress.

Being part of a strong growing trade union is a vital and recognised way of successfully being part of the Trade Union movement. Help us campaign for better working conditions, pay and professional recognition. If you want to join SWU or learn more about becoming actively involved as a Union Contact get in touch: unioncontacts@swu-union.org.uk or email SWU Admin: joanne.marciano@swu-union.org.uk



Belong to a Social Work union that:

- is lobbying MPs and Peers to improve working conditions for social workers.
- partners with organisations to support good working conditions and with opportunities to be active as a SWU Union Contact.
- campaigns to change legislation bills.
- collaborates with external unions and continue to be active through membership of General Federation of Trade Unions and ongoing union campaigns.
- funds the Austerity Action Group and opportunities to get involved.

As a SWU member you get:

- Full guaranteed employment representation*
- Free advice and support from A&R and Union Contacts
- Free financial health check from Lighthouse Group
- 10% off Morrish Solicitors
- General Federation of Trade Unions free training courses
- Discounted training from Avenue Professional Group (Dr Neil Thompson)
- Opportunity to be active as part of the trade union movement
- Monthly Newsletter

**Terms and conditions apply regarding new members and levels of representation*

Please check your membership to continue or opt in to being a SWU Member through BASW membership

Find SWU on the following:



<https://swu-union.org.uk>



<https://www.facebook.com/socialworkersunionuk>



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