

Starbucks

abusing
workers'
rights

Starbucks is one of the sickly-sweet faces of global capitalism. Worldwide it has over 12,000 coffee shops and employs over 100,000 people. In Britain, it has over 500 outlets employing 5,000 workers.

The firm exploits workers all the way down the supply chain. In coffee shops, a Starbucks barista earns a little over the minimum wage per hour but isn't guaranteed enough hours each week to be sure of a living. Meanwhile in the UK its top executive earn nearly £500,000.

Workers might be called "partners" but in reality they suffer repetitive strain injuries, burns and persistent bullying from managers.

Starbucks pays farmers a pittance. According to the Guardian, growers receive little more than 50p for a pound of coffee, which is then sold for £80.

Starbucks is also anti-union. In the US it has faced legal action for victimising workers who tried to organise to improve their conditions.

But Starbucks isn't getting everything its own way. In New Zealand, Starbucks workers organised a strike to protest at their pay and conditions. The Starbucks Workers Union in the US has successfully organised in some stores and won improvements in pay, hours scheduling and on safety. An Oxfam campaign this year forced the firm to concede better terms to Ethiopian farmers.

Starbucks workers in the UK are also standing up for their rights. No Sweat is helping them to organise a union. Join us, get involved!

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Alternatively email admin@nosweat.org.uk or call 07904 431959

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