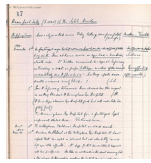


Women's Work: Working Lives



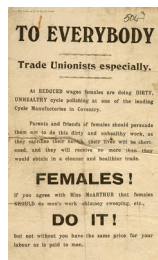
Mary Agnes Cusick, 40 Years as a Spinner 1947

This certificate was presented to Mary Agnes Cusick who had worked in the same cotton mill for 40 years. She would have started at the age of 12 as a 'doffer' or assistant, rising to be a 'fine spinner'. Further progression was not possible as supervisory posts were for men only. People's History Museum



Lead Poisoning in the Potteries 1899

The Women's Trade Union League established a Potteries Fund as part of its campaign against the use of lead in glaze. They made up a dossier of 217 cases to use as evidence, including 19 year old Nelly Davenport who was almost blind after only nine months as a glazer. TUC Library Collections, London Metropolitan University



To Everybody, Trade Unionists Especially 1908

This leaflet condemns the employment of women as polishers in bicycle factories, supposedly on health grounds. However the real objection was to women on low wages undercutting male workers. TUC Library Collections, London Metropolitan University



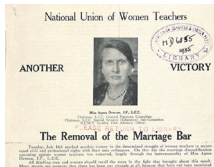
They Have a Cheek, I've Never Been Asked 1908

This postcard protests against restrictions on the work women could do, showing a woman wearing the clogs and shawl of a textile mill worker. The comment 'I've never been asked' refers to women's lack of voting rights. The Women's Library, London Metropolitan University



Report on Open Door International Conference 1935

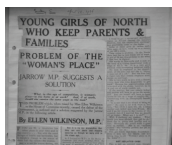
The Open Door Council was established in May 1926 with a high-profile committee to lobby for equal access to work, equal pay and the abolition of the marriage bar. It had an international committee and ran conferences in Europe up to 1939. The Women's Library, London Metropolitan University



Removal of the Marriage Bar 1935

London County Council removed the marriage bar for teachers and medical staff in 1935. Other education authorities followed in 1944, with the Civil Service, most local government posts and the Post Office following suit in 1954. However in other employments - including some union offices - the marriage bar survived into the 1960s.

TUC Library Collections, London Metropolitan University



Young Girls of North who keep parents and families 12 April 1936

This article, written by the MP for the unemployment blackspot of Jarrow, points out the hardships caused by the marriage bar. She cites cases where working women are engaged to unemployed men; where unmarried daughters are supporting unemployed parents and siblings; and where young men's wages are too low to support a non-working wife.

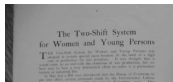
The Women's Library, London Metropolitan University



Mill workers leaving a Sunday shift 1940-5

This photograph shows cotton-mill workers after a Sunday shift, introduced to maximise output in the exceptional circumstances of World War Two. The workers range from girls of 13 to women in their sixties, many of whom would have spent decades in the same job.

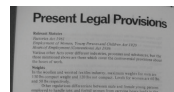
TUC Library Collections, London Metropolitan University



The two-shift system for women and young persons: what it means and why we oppose it 1920

The 'two-shift' system was permitted under the Employment of Women, Young Persons and Children Act of 1920, and meant working for eight hours between 6am and 10pm. This helped employers to maximise the use of equipment and increase output, but caused severe disruption to workers' family lives.

TUC Library Collections, London Metropolitan University



The shift work swindle: - or how the EOC's proposals to repeal protective legislation would really affect women workers 1979

In 1979 the Equal Opportunities Commission was arguing that protective legislation was unfair to women and should be repealed. However, the NCCL and the TUC wanted the provisions to be kept, and extended to men. They also wanted women workers to be consulted on employment laws.

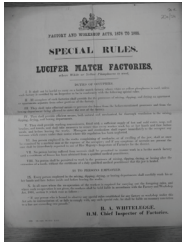
The Women's Library, London Metropolitan University



Occupational Health Nurse in a workplace visit November 1978

The Employment Medical Advisory Service was set up in 1972 to advise on good working practices and first aid provision. This image shows Nurse Sue Stewart from the EMAS (in plain clothes) at Mullards' Semi-Conductors, Stockport, meeting their uniformed workplace nurse.

TUC Library Collections, London Metropolitan University



On wall

Special Rules for Lucifer Match Factories 1908

This poster sets out regulations to protect workers using white or yellow phosphorus from 'phossy jaw', a condition that destroyed the jawbones and led to brain damage and death.

TUC Library Collections, London
Metropolitan University

Sexual Harassment at Work c1982

Sexual harassment has been an invisible poison in many women's workplaces, but can be difficult for trades unions to deal with when it involves disputes between members. The National Association of Local Government Officers was one of the first unions to identify it as an issue needing attention.

The Women's Library, London
Metropolitan University

What if it was your wife, partner, mother, sister? c1985

This is one of a pair of posters. This one appeals to men to protect 'their' women, whilst the other urged women not to 'suffer in silence'. While well-intentioned, this campaign characterised women as passive and in need of male protection.

The Women's Library, London
Metropolitan University