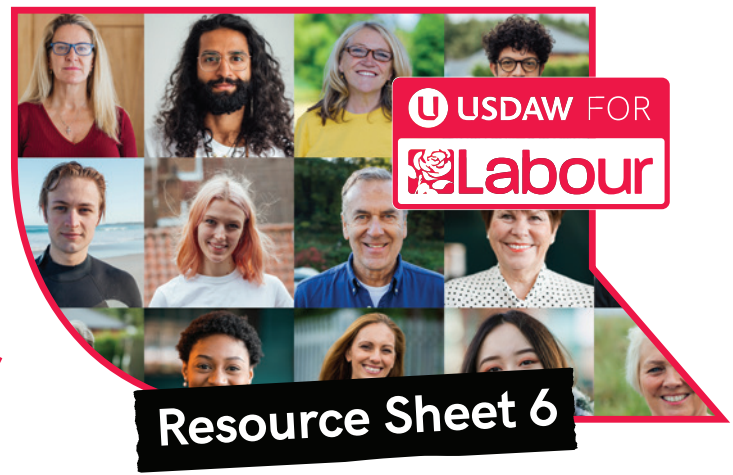


# Notes for Presenting at a CLP Meeting: Freedom From Fear



Speaking at CLP meetings is an important part of our engagement with Labour members and representatives, and helps make sure that there are Usdaw voices in the room. Below are some notes on the Freedom From Fear campaign which you may find useful – but it's best to present in your own words and please feel free to include your own personal perspective.

## Background to Freedom From Fear Campaign

- Usdaw launched Freedom From Fear in 2003 due to rising levels of abuse and violence directed towards retail workers.
- Levels of violence and abuse significantly rose during the COVID-19 pandemic. Although they have reduced since then, they are still well above pre-pandemic levels.

## Survey Results

- Our 2024 *Freedom From Fear* survey was released earlier in the year, received 9,500 responses. These respondents told us:
  - 77% had been abused
  - 53% had been threatened
  - 10% had been assaulted
- They gave us some examples:
  - “A man hit my shoulder without reason.”
  - “Shoplifter scratched my arm. Another customer threatened me.”
- The key “flash-points” surrounding abuse and violence were reported as:
  - Shop theft (which has nearly doubled since the start of the pandemic)
  - Enforcement of age-restricted sales laws (e.g. on alcohol)

## Member Led Campaigns

Ushaw has responded to these challenges industrially and politically.

### Industrial responses include:

- Negotiating with employers to improve physical security measures, including body cameras, CCTV and panic alarms.
- Ensuring employers improve reporting measures and post-incident support for staff.

### Political responses:

- Usdaw has been calling for a tougher response to retail crime, including a stand-alone offence for abusing or assaulting retail workers.
- In Scotland, Labour's Daniel Johnson MSP, an Usdaw member, introduced the Protection of Workers Bill in 2021, making assaulting retail workers a standalone criminal offence.
- We're pleased to see that similar provisions are to be introduced through the Crime and Policing Bill in England and Wales, alongside new pledges to tackle organized shop theft, removing the £200 value minimum for prosecuting shop-lifting and increase the number of neighbourhood police officers.

### Actions CLPs can take:

- Pass motions at CLP or your local council in support of the Freedom From Fear campaign – model motions are available from the Usdaw politics team at [politics@usdaw.org.uk](mailto:politics@usdaw.org.uk)
- Support Usdaw's Respect Week every November, and ask your Labour elected representatives to join an event.
- Write to your Police and Crime Commissioner or Metro Mayor in support of the campaign, and ask them to meet with Usdaw to discuss how they can support retail workers in their area.

