

The Swedish Trade Union Centre for Undocumented Migrants

Undocumented migrant workers also have the right to good working conditions!

Are you being discriminated against or
harassed at work?

Do you work for 20 swedish
kronor per hour?

Do you work without
breaks?

Do you get your
pay on time?



All workers have rights – also undocumented migrant workers

Labour law and regulations apply for all, also for those who do not have a residence permit or a work permit.

In Sweden it is illegal for employers to hire persons who do not have a work permit, and it is illegal for those without a work permit to work. There are some asylum seekers who are entitled to work without a work permit.

The fact that it is unlawful to employ persons who do not have a work permit and unlawful for them to work, does not however imply that a person working without a work permit does not have any rights. The Labour law and collective agreements must always be respected, even by companies that employ undocumented workers.

Working hours

The provisions of the Working Hours Act regarding maximum working hours as well as the right to have a break and a rest apply for all workers, including those without documents.

Work environment

The employer is obliged to make sure that all workers have a decent work environment.

Legislation and collective agreements – your rights

Discrimination and harassment – undocumented workers also have a legal right to be protected against discrimination and harassment for example. Sexual harassment is under no circumstances accepted.

Wages

In Sweden there is no minimum pay stipulated by law. Instead, wage is defined in collective agreements between employers and trade unions. Everyone has the right to get the agreed wage in time.

Collective agreements

An employer who has signed a collective agreement, is obliged to offer all the employees – even those undocumented – the wages and the rights guaranteed in the agreement. You may get better pay and conditions than those in the collective agreement, but never worse.

Trade unions' role

In Sweden it is first of all the trade unions, not the authorities, that ensure that the labour law and the collective agreements are respected. Therefore we advise you to contact the trade unions, not the authorities, if any problem occur at work.

The task of the Trade Union Centre for Undocumented Migrant Workers

The Trade Union Centre for Undocumented Migrant Workers assists undocumented migrant workers and people seeking asylum to safeguard their rights in the Swedish labour market.

Through the Centre, undocumented migrant workers and migrants seeking asylum can get information about their rights in the labour market and advice on wages, working conditions and work environment.

The Centre can provide help to those undocumented migrant workers whose rights have been violated in the labour market. The aid is provided by the trade union with the best knowledge of the sector concerned.

Undocumented migrant workers who contact the Centre may remain anonymous.

In addition, the Trade Union Centre for Undocumented Migrant Workers can provide information on how undocumented migrant workers can get medical treatment and help with asylum issues, but the Centre itself cannot provide this sort of assistance. The Centre has no possibility of providing financial aid to undocumented migrant workers.

The Swedish Trade Union Centre for Undocumented Migrants

Skytteholmsvägen 2, Solna

Opening hours: Mondays 16.00–18.00



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The Trade Union Centre for Undocumented Migrant workers is a joint initiative of the trade union organisations Akademikerförbundet SSR, Byggnads, Fackförbundet ST, Fastighets, Handels, LO, SEKO, GS-facket, Vision, Vårdförbundet, TCO, Unionen, Transport, IF Metall, Elektrikerna, Livs och Hotell- och restaurangfacket.

The aim is to prevent undocumented migrant workers and asylum seekers from being exploited in the labour market and to provide assistance for those having been treated badly.