

Please eat somewhere else today!

Today is the national day of action against Subway, for their treatment of 19 year old worker Natalia Szymanska. We are asking people to stand up for workers' rights, and eat somewhere else today, to show solidarity with the victimised worker, and to send a message to Subway that this injustice won't be allowed to stand.

Natalia was fired from her job at Subway whilst 5 months pregnant, in a clear attempt to get out of paying the maternity pay she would soon be owed. Thinking that no one would care, her boss threw Natalia onto the scrapheap when she could least afford it. We are here today to show that people do care about this behaviour, and won't tolerate it wherever it occurs!

People all over the UK and Ireland are protesting against Subway's contempt for basic workers rights. Bosses all over the country will treat workers like this if they are allowed to get away with it - it's only by standing up against this kind of behaviour that we can put a stop to it.

We are not here to harass Subway workers, and are here in solidarity with all victimised Subway staff. We wish we didn't have to cause this disruption!

However, unless people take a stand when attacks on workers take place, they will go on. Therefore, we are making four simple demands on Subway:



- **Immediately reinstate the pregnant worker**
- **Reimburse her for loss of earnings**
- **Compensate her for injury to feeling**
- **Treat all workers fairly**

19 year old Natalia Szymanska was a 5 months pregnant migrant worker at a Belfast branch of Subway. She was working until 10pm, and so arranged for her boyfriend - an employee of the very same company - to pick her up and walk her home. He had done this many times previously, with the full knowledge and agreement of her managers and never before had it been a problem. However, unknown to Natalia her managers had a different plan on this occasion, because a month previously she had informed them she was pregnant - a fact which would require them to provide her paid maternity leave.



Management seized upon the presence of her boyfriend, and Natalia was dismissed in a farce of a disciplinary. Her managers believed she would have no recourse, and be forced to accept their decision. Their excuse was violation of health and safety - allowing an "unauthorised member of staff" onto the premises. Quite why the presence of another employee of the same company represented such a dire threat to health and safety was never explained.

Natalia turned to the Belfast and District Trade Union Council, who for the past several months have been holding a regular series of pickets of the premises in question, supported by a wide array of organisations from the labour movement and beyond. Thus far, G.G. Cuisine, the franchise holder has been unwilling to budge, and so the decision was made to turn up the pressure, and spread the pickets across the whole of Britain and Ireland. The aim is to force Subway to pressure G.G. Cuisine into settling with Natalia and to show that we will not allow bosses to treat any worker with such contempt.

Pregnant women are frequently treated in similar ways, as if they were somehow being selfish in having a child it is not just a problem for Natalia, but a pattern across thousands of workplaces across the country. Such attacks on workers must be resisted wherever they appear - an injury to one is an injury to all! For further information, if you've been treated similarly, or if you just want to know your rights at work better, get in touch at rights.for.workers@googlemail.com