

## Building Power with Scotland's Tied and Temporary Workers

We partner with people working on tied and temporary visas in social care and agriculture, working together towards a Scotland that truly welcomes every worker.

Our [2025 Annual Report](#) highlights how workers organised, spoke truth to power and shifted it, even within a system that too often fails them.

### WHAT WE ACHIEVED TOGETHER IN 2025

In 2025, WSC grew to a team of nine, opened an office in Perth and branched into Scotland's social care sector for the first time. These three wins stand out:

- **Workers win an historic housing commitment:** Farm workers presenting evidence directly to parliamentarians and government secured Scotland's [first-ever commitment](#) to introduce housing standards for seasonal agricultural workers.
- **Care sector breakthrough:** We supported 47 care workers to meet directly with the Scottish Government, who are considering a new support package shaped by workers' themselves.
- **Worker-designed tools:** We launched a work-time calendar designed with workers to help people in Scotland's agricultural sector record their hours and understand their rights.

*"Workers should not have to choose between speaking about problems and protecting their futures. Behind every salad, every product people buy, there is a lot of labour, effort and sacrifice from us."*

– Bobo, seasonal farm worker, speaking at WSC's Annual Report launch event

### OUR UNIQUE MODEL: FIVE STEPS TO PREVENTING EXPLOITATION

All WSC's work flows through our unique Five-Step Early Exploitation Prevention Model. It combines direct support, information about workers' rights and collective power with law enforcement and policy change.

<p><b>01</b></p> <p><b>Ensuring support</b></p> <p><i>We ensure people's basic needs are met by supporting them with problems in the workplace &amp; beyond</i></p>	<p><b>02</b></p> <p><b>Improving information</b></p> <p><i>We help workers understand their rights &amp; gather evidence to enforce the law.</i></p>	<p><b>03</b></p> <p><b>Building power</b></p> <p><i>We strengthen worker solidarity and build collective power between workers &amp; communities.</i></p>	<p><b>04</b></p> <p><b>Enforcing the law</b></p> <p><i>We ensure enforcement authorities meet workers' needs &amp; uphold their rights.</i></p>	<p><b>05</b></p> <p><b>Influencing change</b></p> <p><i>We partner with workers to create policy solutions &amp; claim spaces for lasting change.</i></p>
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### OUR LAUNCH EVENT, 12 MAY 2026

WSC's Annual Report launch brought together workers, policymakers, NGOs, funders, journalists and international experts in a closed online event, celebrating a significant year of worker-led wins and building momentum for further reform. Our speakers included:

- **Bobo**, a seasonal farm worker with significant experience of campaigning for new housing standards.
- **Matthew Taylor**, Chair of the UK's new [Fair Work Agency](#) (FWA), on centring workers' voices in enforcement.

- **Ade**, a social carer with expertise in discussing the impact of displacement on workers' livelihoods with decision-makers.
- **Vincent**, a social carer with expertise in collective worker advocacy.
- **Tomoya Obokata**, former UN Special Rapporteur on Contemporary Forms of Slavery, on connecting local and nationally focused work like ours to global standards.
- **Lyndsay Robertson** from [The Robertson Trust](#), on the importance of funders supporting lived experience leadership.
- **Emiliano Mellino** from the [Bureau of Investigative Journalism](#), on ethical reporting about people in precarious work.

These contributions generated a rich discussion about systemic reform of tied-visa programmes, with the FWA recognising the need to address structural exploitation across departments and devolved administrations.

*"It's going to be incredibly important to develop the right channels to enable people, especially vulnerable people, to connect with us, and to work with organisations like yours which have closer links and greater trust with workers than a state agency is ever likely to have."*

– Matthew Taylor, Chair, FWA, speaking at WSC's Annual Report launch event

## MEDIA COVERAGE

Our Annual Report launch attracted coverage across national and trade media, including in *The Grocer*. As the UK's leading trade title for the food and grocery sector, it is particularly significant for reaching employers and supply chain actors who can help drive change in seasonal agriculture.

Outlet	Coverage (NB - paywalls may apply.)
The Herald	<a href="#">Care home workers 'in limbo' from UK immigration changes</a>
The National	<a href="#">I came to work in care – but who is caring for us?</a>
The Grocer	<a href="#">'Culture of fear' on the rise in the Seasonal Worker scheme</a>
The National	<a href="#">The hidden housing scandal behind Scotland's world-class strawberries</a>

## WHAT COMES NEXT

- **Beyond Pledges:** WSC's new three-year communications and movement-building programme, focused on workers in seasonal agriculture and social care, is now under way.
- **Fair Work Agency:** We are positioned as a key civil society partner as the FWA establishes its stakeholder assembly and outreach to people in precarious work.
- **New Scottish Parliament:** We are seeking cross-party commitments on our [manifesto asks](#), co-developed with workers, including on tied-visa reform, housing standards and fair work.

### Let's stay in touch!

To discuss how your work connects with ours, please contact Caroline Robinson, Executive Director: [caroline@workersupportcentre.org.uk](mailto:caroline@workersupportcentre.org.uk)

[Read our 2025 Annual Report](#) and [sign up to our newsletter!](#)