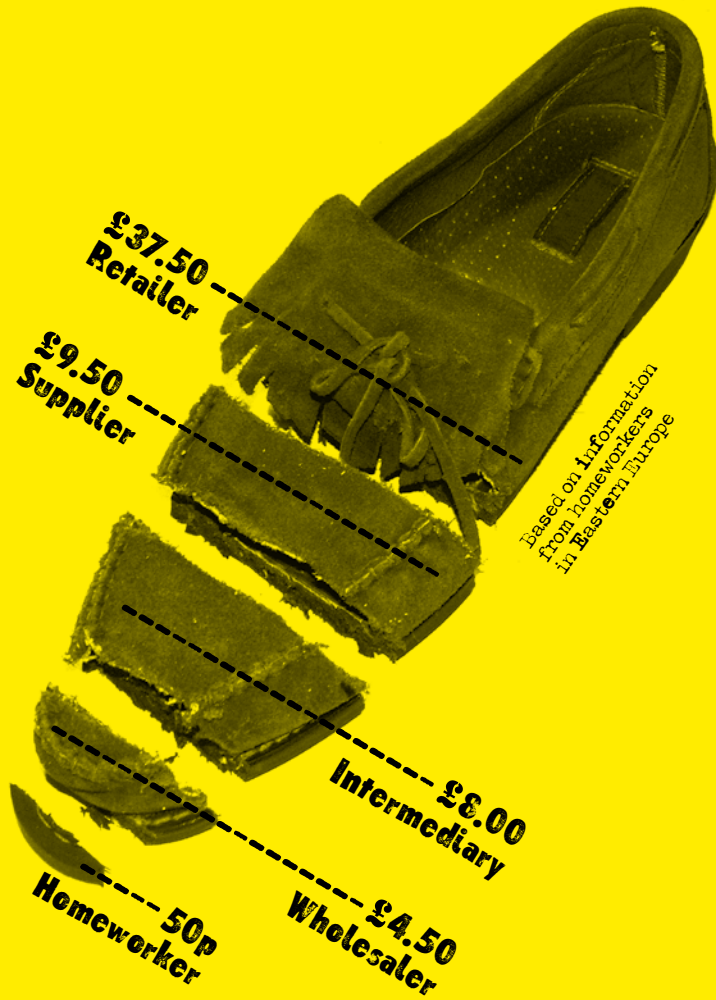


Who Gets What?



What Is Homebased Work?

Homebased work is done mainly by women, in their homes, for cash income. It is not domestic work or unpaid household work. Other types of work done by homeworkers include: packing cards, weaving, making jewellery, trimming plastic parts.

What Can You Do?

- 1 Encourage retailers to examine supply chains to ensure workers get a fair deal.
- 2 If they are not already members, write urging them to join the Ethical Trading Initiative.
- 3 Get a group of friends together to write letters asking your favourite footwear store about their supply chains. Send receipts if you can so they know you are customers.
- 4 Publish articles in your newsletter, journals, webpage or e-bulletins.
- 5 Invite people from Homeworkers Worldwide to speak at forums and events.

Contact HomeWorkers Worldwide

Visit www.homeworkersww.org.uk

Email info@homeworkersww.org.uk

Telephone 00 44 (0)113 217 4037

Facsimile 00 44 (0)113 217 4037

30-38 Dock Street, Leeds LS10 1JF
United Kingdom

Working with home-based workers worldwide

WHO FOOTS THE BILL?



Decent work for homeworkers in the leather footwear industry.



Stitching shoes
in Bulgaria.

Homeworkers in the leather footwear industry experience extremely poor working conditions. As companies engage in a 'race to the bottom' to reduce costs, homeworkers face health problems, have no access to social security and not enough money to support their families. Homeworkers are demanding their rights under the International Labour Organisation Convention on Home Work.



Laura stitching shoes in Chile.

We have to work seven days a week... for ten hours a day... for very low wages... There is no social insurance, for health or pensions

Roza, Bulgaria

Women Homeworkers Play A Key Role In Global Supply Chains

Most shoe retailers now outsource manufacturing to smaller companies, who in turn may give out work to workshops and homeworkers. This supply chain often stretches across several countries.

They Work In Poor Conditions Producing Goods With A High Retail Value.

As retailers look for ever lower product costs and quicker response times, pressure is passed down the chain, meaning lower wages and more insecurity for workers. Homeworkers often work on a piece rate which can mean working an hourly rate well below a living wage and working long hours to make ends meet.

The glue was so strong it made my head ache. It was so strong that when it fell onto leather, it stripped it

Laura, Chile

When companies give work to homeworkers, they save money because they don't pay the homeworkers' overheads, such as rent, heating and lighting. Companies also do not always pay social insurance costs, meaning homeworkers have no sick pay, maternity leave or pensions.

One of the biggest problems for homeworkers, and a constant humiliation, is that nowhere are they mentioned by their name. The subcontractors know them only by a number. Homeworkers are the most invisible

Roza, Bulgaria

Homeworkers Lack Voice And Recognition

Home-based work is often not recognised as 'real work' and homeworkers are often unprotected by country laws. Where laws exist, they are often poorly implemented, if at all. There is rarely any organisation among homeworkers by the formal unions in the sector.

This invisibility makes it extremely difficult for women homeworkers to claim their rights.
