From the Chair  

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Dar Alok,  

Proposed ILO Convention to end violence and harassment in the world of work  

In light of recent allegations of bullying and harassment, now is the time to tackle workplace harassment by supporting a strong Convention on this issue at the International Labour Conference in June 2019. The proposed Convention presents a great opportunity to tackle abuse in the world of work and to ensure that workplaces are safe for everyone. I therefore encourage you to:  

- Support the agreed definition of violence and harassment;  
- Support the agreed definition of ‘worker’ and agreed scope of ‘world of work’;  
- Ensure that informal workers and their representatives and/or associations are provided assistance and resources to benefit from the ILO Convention.  

All workers, regardless of their job, deserve to be protected from harassment and violence. Workers in the gig economy are more likely to be affected by workplace harassment, against which they have limited recourse; our current legislation grants them fewer protections than their counterparts in formal employment. But the draft ILO Convention, as it currently stands, would rectify this injustice.  

Around the world, and in the UK, those who have suffered workplace abuse are often stopped from speaking out, usually due to threats of losing their job. You will no doubt be aware of the Women and Equalities Committee’s inquiry into non-disclosure agreements. I hope that the Government considers the Committee’s findings carefully and responds positively. Once they have reported, might you consider whether any of their conclusions or recommendations would be appropriate for inclusion in the draft Convention?  

Best wishes and I look forward to hearing from you,  

Rt Hon Frank Field MP  
Chair, Work and Pensions Committee  

CC Mrs Maria Miller MP, Chair, Women and Equalities Committee