

# Federations and Education in Usdaw



Would you like to have the chance to get together to learn more about how your union works and to discuss questions which affect you at work or in the wider community?



You can do all these things and enjoy yourself by attending a school organised by your local Federation ...



Are you interested in meeting other members of Usdaw from different workplaces and branches?

Usdaw education – training for action



**Usdaw**  
Union of Shop, Distributive  
and Allied Workers

**Sata**  
Supervisory, Administrative  
and Technical Association

[www.usdaw.org.uk](http://www.usdaw.org.uk)

# Building the Union

## What is a Federation?

A Federation is simply an organisation made up of Usdaw branches that are within a reasonable distance of each other.

Any branch has the right to affiliate to a Federation and so take part in Federation affairs.

They are democratic bodies run for members by members through an elected Federation Committee.

The most important aim of **Federations** is to encourage as many members as possible to play an active role in **Ushaw**. This is important because they need not only to recruit new members but also to retain them by helping them to maintain an active interest in the union once they have joined.

Federations, therefore, play a vital part in:

- The social life of the Union.
- Developing membership education.
- Building the Union.

## Informal and friendly

Federation Schools are relaxed and informal and you will find that you have lots of chances to get involved and to express your own views.

So the Schools are lively and friendly events covering issues that affect everyone at work, for example youth training, part-time workers' rights, understanding the Annual Delegate Meeting, Usdaw and the Labour Party, etc.

Most Federations organise two or three Schools a year and they are usually social as well as informative occasions. The Schools are often led by Usdaw officials who have an expertise in the topic of discussion.



# What we think ...

... *Two of the reports were given by people attending the Weekend School for the first time and because of the relaxed, informal atmosphere were able to give excellent reports.*

**Lisa Boodle**

... *I would recommend to anyone the benefits of going to Federation Schools.*

**Eddie Nelson**

... *The format of workgroups and report-backs was enjoyable and generated a wide and varied discussion on the subject.*

**Nicola Cross**

... *The evening meal was excellent. We then went to a local bar which had live entertainment. All delegates enjoyed themselves and many made new friends.*

**Mark Pengelly**

... *The School ran perfectly with every delegate feeling comfortable and welcome.*

**Linda Chilton**



## Affiliate to a Federation now!

Usdaw is as strong as its members. It is your union and if you want to play an active part in it then a Federation School is a good place to be.

- Make sure your branch is affiliated to the local Federation. If it isn't, raise the matter with your Usdaw Rep/Branch Secretary/Area Organiser.
- If you don't have a local Federation it is possible to organise one from scratch. Your Area Organiser or Training Officer will advise on how to do it.

# For more information...

Contact your Area Organiser  
or get in touch with one of the  
following Training Officers:

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Further details are also  
available from:

## Education Department

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website: [www.usdaw.org.uk/training](http://www.usdaw.org.uk/training)



**Improving workers' lives – Winning for members**