



**What's
happening**

**on your =====
journey to work?**

=====
Have a
SAFE JOURNEY
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Usdaw
*Union of Shop, Distributive
and Allied Workers*
www.usdaw.org.uk

Usdaw wants to ensure that our members are safe when travelling to and from work. But our members, particularly women, tell us

... here are the main reasons why

- **Dark car parks** – staff who work very early in the morning or late at night often find the car park lights are switched off.
- **Shifts being rearranged** – changes to hours can mean missing the last bus home.
- **Concealed staff entrances** – walking past bushes and shrubs can make women feel unsafe especially when it's dark.

If you are worried about these or any other issues concerning your journey to work, we can help.

Talk to your Usdaw rep or if there is no rep in your store you can call the Usdaw helpline on **0800 030 80 30**



"My store is 24 hour but after 9.30 at night management decided to turn the car park lighting off to save money and reduce energy use. Members felt very unsafe in the car park and I raised this with the Store Manager. If members don't feel safe then customers won't either so it's not in anyone's interests to have a dark car park. The lights are now on a timer so that as soon as anyone goes into the car park they come on."

Alan Kell, Usdaw rep, North East Division

"There have been problems late at night with members getting to their cars or to the station. We spoke with the Company about it who issued personal safety alarms to staff who were working lates or earlies. We've also got an agreement that staff can move their cars into customer spaces that become empty during the night shifts. These spaces are usually better lit and are nearer to the store entrance."

Su Patel, Usdaw rep, Southern Division



Members feel safe at lots of our they don't



Below you will find some personal safety tips. These are not a substitute for talking to your Usdaw rep. If you feel unsafe travelling to and from work talk to Usdaw.

Personal safety tips

If you are getting a taxi

- Only use a licensed minicab or Black Cab and carry the telephone number of a trusted company with you.
- Confirm the taxi driver's details when they arrive – is it the taxi you ordered?

If you are travelling by bus or train

- Check departure times, especially of last buses.
- Try and have your ticket or money ready in your hand so your purse is out of sight.
- If possible wait in a well-lit place near other people.
- Carry extra money in case you need to take another bus, train or cab unexpectedly.

If you are walking

- Whenever possible, stick to well-lit, busy areas and don't take a risky shortcut.
- Never be tempted to take a risky shortcut eg through a quiet section of the park or down a deserted alleyway.

- Stay alert to your surroundings at all times because the sooner you notice a potential danger the easier it is to avoid.
- Think about carrying a personal alarm with you.
- Act on your instincts – if something looks or feels wrong it probably is, so don't wait for your fears to be confirmed, get away from the situation as quickly as possible.

If you are driving

- Know your route and let other people know where you are going.
- Keep a map in the car so that you don't have to stop and ask for directions.
- Never leave your keys in the ignition whilst you are out of the car for any reason.
- Keep doors locked when you are driving and keep bags and other valuables out of sight.
- If someone approaches the car when you are parked or stopped at lights, only roll down the window enough to hear what they want but not enough for someone to get their arm through.

"I think dark, lonely store car parks are a big problem. The problem is that the lights are often turned off when the last customer has left, leaving members of staff to get to their cars in the dark. It worries me and I know it worries other members too.

I think the safe journeys campaign is great, I'm very passionate about it. It's reminded me to be a little bit more self-aware, a little bit more alert when I'm out and about at night."

Pauline Markham, Usdaw rep, North Eastern Division



To find out more about the work of the Divisional Equalities Forums and Usdaw's equality work, or about joining Usdaw contact:

The Equalities Section

Usdaw

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Usdaw

**Campaigning
For Equality**



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