



Hvað mætir erlendum konum á íslenskum vinnumarkaði?

Reynslusögur erlends starfsfólks

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“Well weirdly mostly on the details, that is what happens with most of us. Little things like for example the **sick days**, if we don’t go, working at a guesthouse without a contract, because we have a fever, **we will not get paid** for that day. Another one is **the contract**, so the workers can’t rely on 100% full time job. **Very often the schedules are according to how the traffic is.** So workers might be standing by, without working and work often times last minute and the schedule very often comes last minute so the workers can’t have a personal life in many cases.”





“Mostly what they do is they try to reach an agreement with the immigrant, which is a very **blackmailed agreement**, saying ‘okay you want to earn more money? I let you, you can work more hours, but **you will not be paid yfirvinna**, so you will not be paid the extra hour.’”



“I was fired for ridiculous reasons, because they were saying I was too slow at the dishwasher and at the housekeeping, and I wasn’t doing it with pleasure, they could see it in my face. [...] they were letting me leave two or three hours earlier both at the dishwasher and at housekeeping so it’s ridiculous to say I was being too slow.”

“I know why, because a friend of mine who came to visit me there, she did an interview with them and she found out they weren’t paying extra hours and so she didn’t accept the job offer. And when she visited **I think they got conscious that if she knows then I also know that extra hours exist.**”



“When I went in I was fired with no warning, nothing. The week before they were saying everything was going perfect, they were happy. Then suddenly - fired.”



“I didn’t ask for more money, I just asked to be paid for overtime and when I approached my boss **he called me crazy, he laughed in my face** and he told me if I’m not happy I can go back to just being a cleaner.”



“[My boss] said **‘thank your friend that I have no more job for you’**. So the next day I picked up my friend and we went together to the union.”



“The housing, which is well, from the places that I have in mind at least, and I have witnessed with my own eyes. It’s minimum and the price of the accommodation is not mentioned in the contract”.



“When the workers have some complaint, the [employers] usually go like ‘**yeah, but you have free housing**’”.

“They told me, ‘you know it’s a big privilege to not pay rent here in Iceland’ - and then they fired me. **So they also use it as blackmail.**”



“We don’t have family here, most of us don’t have friends here, so it’s not a choice where we live”.



“There’s quite a lot of foreigners there but somebody told me it’s **probably because foreigners don’t know their rights**”.



“Most of them are starting to get very loose on the labour codes, especially because the immigrants, we don’t know the labour codes. We think that the money we get is a lot compared to the money we get in our own countries so we don’t complain. But its a lie, my friends and I, **we complain and we get fired**”.



“I have a feeling that the company and the employers are irritated by the unions, so we have a feeling that if we press some issues through the union we will have them backfire from the employer in some other things. Which can be in the boundaries of the law but it would make life a bit more difficult here. **It’s really a double edged sword.**”



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