Written submission from a member of the public (SHW0078)

I worked for the probably the biggest sports retailer in the country, [large sports retailer], for just sort of [1-5 years]. I have had many people ask me, how could you have been sexually abused in there? Well I will tell you how?

Allegedly it was in my contracts that they could do the following:
- Male staff could 'touch up and pat down' female staff at the end of their shift. Allegedly this was due to security reasons. But one manager tried to take it further with me. When I said no, he tried to give me the bare minimum hours possible. THIS IS IN ALMOST EVERY SINGLE CONTRACT OF [large sports retailer] EMPLOYEES THAT MANAGERS AND SENIOR STAFF ON DUTY CAN DO THIS.
- One fellow male staff used to take the mic out of me, and kept smacking my backside when I was on close down shifts, he would deliberately take me to the train station I didn't want to go to (I always used to use either [location]) I was always taken too the secluded station at [location].
- One staff member (a supervisor who had much more force than I did) used to keep pushing me against shelved in the stock room where he couldn't be seen, and in doing so, he would be touching me where I didn't want to be touched. Again I was bribed with hours.
- One staff member followed me back to my flat in [location] and tried to force his way in. He was in the middle of assaulting me when the complex manager had to drag him away. He was not sacked for this and I had to face him in work, and he would deliberately make sure we would be working together.
- One female staff member tried to make moves on me (she knew Identify as bisexual) and I was always taken the mic out of as I had not done anything with a woman before.
- I was deliberately tripped over and my supervisor at the time deliberately laid on top of me so I couldn't get up (this was my first day at my new store after my transfer back home to [location])
- On a work night out, up to 6 male staff tried it on with me at the back of our store. It was like a game of pass the parcel. If it wasnt for my Uni friend at the time, I wouldn't be here today.

When [large sports retailer] were told all of this, I was told 'I am just jealous, I want more hours, and to shut up and get on with it' I spoke out against them, I got suspended, and I left on the same day, so I could continue to speak out against them. So I will be joining your campaign with full force.

These are just some of the more powerful experiences I have encountered. Hope these help.

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