Xxxxxx the leading xxx company working to/is a supply to the industry/ maintain the road network in xxxx working xxx is supporting a campaign aimed at eradicating abuse of public-facing workers, including those that work on the public highway.

**PRESS RELEASE**

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xxxx is set to support the very first country-wide Respect our Workforce week, taking place 11th-15th March as part of the Think Respect campaign.

The campaign is helping raise awareness of the challenges facing public facing workers when they get verbally and physically abused.

According to the campaign, 60% of all roadworkers and other people working on the public highway, for example, get abused on a daily basis.

Speaking about her own experiences, Roadworker Sinead Ryan said, “It’s almost every night, sometimes more. Most of the time its just people screaming abuse at you but it can be worse, meaning you have to lock yourself in your van and one time I had a gun pulled on me in a petrol station by an irate member of the public.”

The negative impact of this on the mental health of the individuals subjected to the abuse is something which is, inevitably, of concern to employers, as Steve Day, contracts manager at Go Traffic Management explains:

“Obviously this has a massive impact (on the mental health of people), nobody likes to go to work and find themselves subjected to a constant torrent of abuse, let alone to have this every day.”

At the end of 2023, a YouGov survey of 2,082 adults found that attacks on shop workers are worsening amidst the rise in retail crime, with two in five shouted at, spat on, threatened or hit every week, leaving half feeling unsafe at work, but one in four don’t report abuse.

In the survey for the Retail Trust, results showed that two in five (41%) are now shouted at, spat on, threatened or hit every week, and nearly half (47%) are left feeling unsafe at work.

64 per cent said confronting a shoplifter had caused the abuse, and think incidents have increased in the last two years, and 56 per cent thought the rising cost-of-living was to blame for shoppers taking out their frustrations on them.

Another two thirds (67%) want stricter penalties for customers who abuse shop workers and a third (33%) believe the police should be taking more action.

Now xxxx company will work with its supply chain and customers as part of its commitment to support the campaign, not only during Respect our Workforce campaign but moving forward.

Xxx company to include here what it is going to do to support the campaign and what it is doing to tackle the issue of roadworker abuse etc

Respect Our Workforce week, aims to empower the workforce and influence a change of attitudes towards public facing workers.

To kick this off, Think Respect is working with National Highways, who operate and maintain the motorway network in England, to talk to the public in four locations; Norwich, Cambridge, Bedford and Peterborough.

This will be an opportunity for the public to understand more about worker abuse, meet some road operatives that have faced abuse and tell us what they find frustrating about roadworks as well learn from them how the industry can improve communication with them about road works and why the work road operatives carry out is so important to their every day lives. This will help the campaign understand how we can help influence positive behaviour change.

Xxxxxx from xxxx company said:

“Respect our Workforce week marks a vital point in this campaign. But as we look back on a successful 12 months, there is still much work to do towards our aim of eradicating abuse of all public-facing workers including road workers. It is not acceptable to abuse a doctor, nurse, teacher so why should those working in a public facing role accept this too?,” said Kevin Robinson, founder and Campaign Director of Stamp It Out and Think Respect.