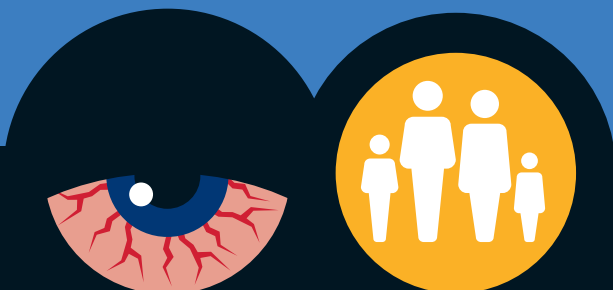




Staying at work when I am not always needed does nothing to aid my creativity, yet I do it because it's the norm. **My wife said to me the other day, 'I feel like a single parent'. That is, frankly, the saddest thing she has ever said to me"**

Assistant art director



#eyeshalfshut

Long hours working is bad for families

Lost parenting, relationship breakdowns, difficulty caring for parents and damage to family life - long-hours working has many downsides, but a recent survey of BECTU members showed that damage to family life was one of the biggest concerns for many in the film/TV industries - particularly ADs, art departments, camera, lighting, hair, make-up, post-production, props, set crafts and SFX.



As a woman and single parent, I can confirm our industry discriminates against us... none of my childminders work my hours. **My child has to have two (sometimes three) different childminders a day**"

Victoria, script supervisor

Wider industry studies have shown that long hours working results in marriage breakups. One fifth of people working long hours said that their working patterns had put their relationship at risk.¹

Only 20% of fathers working more than 48 hour weeks get to talk to their children most days.

Almost eight in ten parents and carers told a Raising Films survey that caring had had a negative impact on their work in the UK film and television industries.²

One study even linked an increase in sexually transmitted diseases among youths to their parents working long hours. The survey also found that divorce was more common where women worked long hours.³



Both my husband and I are editors; **we constantly don't feel 'present' enough in our children's lives** to the point that we have to consider completely changing careers"

Rachael, editor

BECTU is working towards a more family-friendly TV and film industry in the UK. New BECTU agreements have helped to define working hours more clearly. Negotiating and improving these agreements is an important part of the solution. Evidence shows careless scheduling is more expensive for productions.

Long-standing agreements show what is possible. For example, the Construction Crew Agreement has given the union a platform to successfully negotiate a reduction in the length of the working day.

What you can do

BECTU is campaigning for the establishment of a formal commission of all of the industry's main employers to address the long-hours culture in the UK film and TV industries.

You can support this campaign by signing the 'Eyes Half Shut' petition at <http://bit.ly/eyes-petition>

Follow the campaign on Facebook at www.facebook.com/bectueyeshalfshut

Like and share info www.bectu.org.uk/eyeshalfshut

Join BECTU and get involved! www.bectu.org.uk/join

BECTU supports the work of...

Raising Films: www.raisingfilms.com

The Film and Television Charity: <https://filmtvcharity.org.uk/>

Media Parents: www.mediaparents.co.uk

Share My Telly Job: www.sharemytellyjob.com



I missed my kids growing up. I missed most school events"

Anonymous, camera branch

1. 'Breaking the Long Hours Culture' - research by Austin Knight UK Ltd, (1995) referenced in the Institute of Employment Studies, 1998

2. <https://www.raisingfilms.com/about-us/our-work/>

3. 'Do long hours contribute to divorce?' John H. Johnson (2004), Topics in economic analysis and policy, volume 4, issue 1

