HARVARD GRADUATE STUDENTS UNION

HGSU-UAW Local 5118 | a union of student workers at Harvard University

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HARVARD WORKERS GO ON STRIKE AS UNIVERSITY FACES TRIPLE STRIKE THREAT

With a $68 billion endowment, Harvard refuses additional bargaining sessions as student workers demand safe work, fair pay, and the right to stay

CAMBRIDGE, MASS. – On Tuesday, October 27, thousands of student workers employed by Harvard University will go on strike after University administrators refuse to negotiate and bargain a fair contract, causing a massive disruption to the teaching and research at Harvard.

Over 4,000 student workers employed by Harvard University are represented by the Harvard Graduate Students Union-UAW Local 5118 (HGSU) and have been bargaining with the University for over a year and a half. The HGSU walkout comes as Harvard faces the possibility of overlapping strikes by three campus unions. Harvard Academic Workers (HAW) have set their strike deadline for November 10, while Harvard dining workers, represented by UNITEHERE Local 26, have also authorized a strike.

HGSU's strike kickoff begins today at noon at Science Center Plaza, followed by campus picketing and delivery of a member petition to Harvard Administration. A full schedule of the week's events can be found on HGSU's website and Instagram.

"Harvard has refused to offer meaningful proposals or schedule additional, on-the-record bargaining sessions. We are ready to bargain at any time," **said Denish Jaswal, a Harvard PhD Candidate in the Department of Philosophy and President of HGSU-UAW.** "We would rather be teaching and doing research. But we need a contract we can live and work under. We are prepared to stay on strike until Harvard moves."

WORKERS ARE FIGHTING FOR:

- **Safe work and real recourse.** Workers are seeking an independent grievance process for harassment and discrimination, legal support for Title IX cases, and guaranteed funding to leave unsafe labs without losing their income, all secured in a legally binding union contract.
- **Fair pay and essential benefits.** Workers are demanding a living wage, equal pay for equal work, raises that keep pace with living costs, and the ability to ensure member

access to benefit funds. Harvard is proposing to eliminate nearly $3 million in funds that help workers pay for essential healthcare, dental, childcare, and immigration expenses.
- **The right to stay**. Workers are seeking enforceable protections for noncitizen workers, including secure immigration documents, guaranteed leave for immigration emergencies, and a requirement for judicial warrants before immigration agents enter nonpublic campus spaces.

On October 8, HGSU offered a comprehensive package with movement on core demands. On October 22, the final bargaining session before HGSU's strike deadline, Harvard failed to offer any meaningful response to proposals put forward by HGSU.

"Harvard's endowment has grown to nearly $68 billion, yet workers are still fighting to afford rent and work without harassment," **said Evan Lemire, a Harvard PhD Candidate at the T. H. Chan School of Public Health and Vice President of HGSU-UAW.** "Harvard is forcing us to withhold the work we love to secure the conditions we need to do it. The University can end this strike by negotiating a fair contract."

The walkout follows HGSU's historic 40-day spring strike, which helped secure agreements on eight additional contract articles. On October 6, 88% of participating members voted to authorize another strike.

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The **Harvard Graduate Students Union (HGSU-UAW Local 5118)** represents over 4000 graduate and undergraduate student workers at Harvard. Learn more at harvardgradunion.org or on Instagram.

The **International Union, United Automobile, Aerospace and Agricultural Implement Workers of America (UAW)** is one of the largest and most diverse unions in North America, with members in virtually every sector of the economy. UAW-represented workplaces include multinational corporations, small manufacturers, state and local governments, and colleges and universities, hospitals and private non-profit organizations. The UAW has more than 400,000 active members and more than 580,000 retired members in the United States, Canada and Puerto Rico. The UAW represents roughly 120,000 higher education workers across the country, including 20,000 postdoctoral researchers, adjunct professors, and graduate workers in the Northeast who have chosen UAW representation in the last five years.