

THE GRAD WORKER

Rank  
& File

# Issue Seven

of the NYU graduate  
union newsletter

GSOC  
AGAINST  
TRUMP





## ‘Not a Single Inch’

**GSOC stewards and many members have signed on to this principled stand against Trump, and you can too**

“Two roads lie before us in this political moment. The first is a deepening of the poverty and misery pervasive in this country for decades, reinforced by a virulent bigotry toward people of color, immigrants, Muslims, Jews, women, and queers. The second road is built on the principle that an injury to one is an injury to all, and it depends on the disruptive power we have as workers and the social ties forged to unleash that power. As members of the NYU Graduate Student Organizing Committee (GSOC) of the UAW Local 2110, we are committed to paving this second road together with our comrades in the labor movement and broader progressive forces.

As part of this heterogeneous front against Trump, we demand that NYU:

- Become a sanctuary campus, as part of New York City’s pledge to remain a sanctuary city under Trump.
- Ensure that all international and dual passport-holding students are able to continue traveling easily in and out of the U.S. to pursue their work and studies.
- End institutional racism with measures such as abolishing the box, addressing the Black & Brown Coalition’s existing demands, and devoting further resources to fighting bigotry aimed at people of color; Muslim, Jewish, and LGBTQ people; and people with disabilities on campus.
- Follow its own labor guidelines and bargain in better faith so that its workers can afford to live in this city.
- Agree to work with GSOC over its repeated calls for just and equal distribution of healthcare benefits across genders, departments, and schools.

We also demand that the UAW International:

- Not collaborate with Trump on any initiative at a time when his administration will be attacking labor rights nationwide, and instead commit to the deep organizing necessary for unionizing workers, as detailed below.
- Reverse its nullification of resolutions democratically passed by several locals and bargaining units to join the Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions movement.
- Forge genuine ties with the movement for Black lives.
- Commit to standing with Standing Rock.
- Sign onto the Just Transition program toward a sustainable economy ...

... NYU has the second largest international student population and one of the largest Muslim Students Associations in the United States. Our administration must ensure the institutional protection of the legal status of

its international students who are threatened by Trump's xenophobic and Islamophobic policies, and take an unwavering stand in all cases to combat increasing acts of Trump-sanctioned bigotry. The administration's response to the outrageous instances of Islamophobia already appearing on our campus will be a first and dire step. The demands that open this statement outline the direction that NYU must follow if it is to respond to this political moment with a modicum of justice...

...Elites will continue to try to lower our expectations. We will resist those efforts. We maintain that when we come together and disrupt business as usual, we can change society. We won't give them room to divide us. Not a single inch."

Raise the volume by adding your voice here: [bit.ly/2lmTx4M](http://bit.ly/2lmTx4M)



## March on Washington! Declare NYU a Sanctuary Campus

Hundreds of union members from NYU, Columbia, Barnard, and other units across Region 9A boarded buses in the early morning of January 21st to make the trip to DC. We marched with hundreds of thousands of women, people of color, and their allies, establishing on Day 1 of the Trump administration that we will resist his misogynistic, racist, Islamophobic, and soundly ill-conceived agenda. Millions of others joined sister marches in NYC and across the world. It is our responsibility to resist. It is our responsibility to win.

GSOC is working hard to win a Sanctuary designation for NYU in order to carve out a safer space for students and faculty amid the rising tide of discrimination and intolerance under the Trump administration. What does "Sanctuary" mean? Many things, including that, to the fullest extent possible under the law:

- NYU *won't* voluntarily share any information with Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE),

Customs and Border Protection (CBP);

- NYU *won't* allow ICE physical access to any buildings or land owned or controlled by the university;
  - NYU *will* provide access to competent and expanded legal support for noncitizen, Muslim, and LGBTQ students and staff, those with undocumented family members, and others rendered vulnerable by federal, state, or city orders that contravene the University's commitment to diversity, freedom, and equality;
  - NYU *will* expand access to financial aid for noncitizen students, especially those who might be affected by a repeal or change in DACA;
- To find out more about Sanctuary, visit:

[medium.com/@nyusanctuary](https://medium.com/@nyusanctuary)

## GSOC elections this spring

If you've been looking for a place to organize against Trump and make a difference in the fight for labor rights, GSOC wants you! Elections are on the horizon, so consider getting involved today and running for a position in April.

If you want to organize your department for Sanctuary, stamp out contract violations in your school,

and represent your colleagues, run for Shop Steward. Seats will be available in all five districts. Monthly Assembly of Steward meetings, serving on one committee, and department organizing make for 8-10 hours per month minimum.

If you want to organize beyond GSOC, advocate for our interests, and link up with other shops in our Local, run for Joint Council Delegate or Unit Chair. The JC meets six times a year and we look for at least one JC delegate at each monthly member meeting, so block off at least 3 hours per month.

Here's how you do it all in three steps:

- Vote on bylaws changes in late March
- Submit your nomination by first week of April
- Campaign before elections, tentatively scheduled for 24-28 April

## Latest dispatches

### Small Victories for Leg Day

Without warning in February, NYU gyms were suddenly requiring working Steinhardt doc students to purchase memberships because of the way that the university implemented the contract and the arbitrator's decision about the one-credit fee. After a grad worker reached out to union and university representatives, the university immediately changed its implementation of the

contract and sent an announcement to grad workers who had purchased gym memberships outlining how their refund would work.

### **Spring Health Insurance Refunds Expected by Last Week of February**

As always, NYU is late on refunding union members' health insurance fees, negligent in reflecting union rates in its billing, and as non-communicative as a mis-swiped Tinder match in letting members know what's happening when. Through a combination of past practices and persistent emailing, we've learned that the first round of refunds will come at the end of the month. If March comes without you getting the money you deserve, contact us!

### **Join us at our next Assembly of Stewards / Member Meeting!**

3rd Tuesday of each month, 4:30–6:30pm

Basement Assembly Hall Judson Memorial Church  
(enter at 239 Thompson St.)

### **GSOC formally endorses these upcoming acts of resistance**

#### **Women's Strike - March 8**

A day of intersectional feminist action

[www.womenstrikeus.org](http://www.womenstrikeus.org)

#### **March for Science - April 22**

A call to celebrate and defend the scientific community and evidence-based policy

[www.marchforscience.com](http://www.marchforscience.com)

### **March for Climate, Justice, and Jobs - April 29**

a mass mobilization for a just transition away from fossil fuels  
[www.peoplesclimate.org](http://www.peoplesclimate.org)

So are we going on strike? Our collective bargaining agreement, like most in America, unfortunately prohibits union workers from striking in their capacity as contract workers during its duration. This means that we cannot go on strike without risking significant legal penalties as a union and significant disciplinary measures as individual workers. So, please do show up to work, but consider other ways of expressing your solidarity and resistance on the job (wearing red, a button, a pussyhat; not smiling or performing un(der)paid emotional labor; changing your lesson plan to address questions of gender, race, sexuality, and labor, etc.). And, when you're off the clock, consider joining in the events planned for the day & evening.

In your capacity as a student, however, you are at much greater liberty to strike for the day and take to the streets. We ask GSOC members to mobilize for these actions in whatever capacity they can.

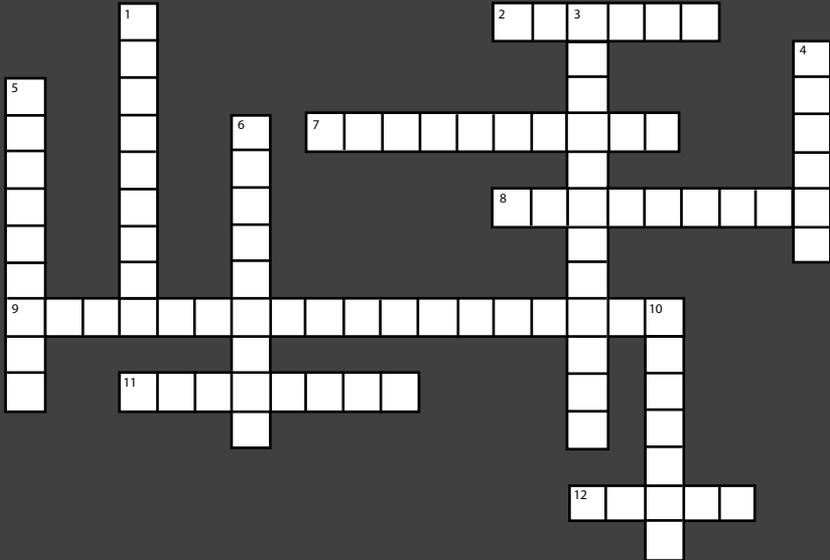
How do I get to Washington for the marches? We're petitioning the UAW to provide buses for both marches, as the organizers are asking people who make the trip to DC to try their hardest to do so. In case we can't get those buses, we'll organize a contingent for the NYC sister marches. Several laboratories and institutes are also making transportation plans.

Stay tuned for updates!



### **Got a question?**

For a health Health Insurance Primer and more information about your union benefits, contact us at  
[gsoc@2110uaw.org](mailto:gsoc@2110uaw.org)  
or visit us online at  
[makingabetternyu.org](http://makingabetternyu.org)



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