

## Harvard Law School Students Support HUDS Workers

Dear friends, classmates, and colleagues,

We, the undersigned student organizations of Harvard Law School, declare our support for, and solidarity with, the Harvard University Dining Service (HUDS) workers in their struggle for a fair contract. These hard-working individuals take care of us and make us feel at home every single day, and have been part of this community for far longer than any of us students. Now the Harvard University Administration is slashing their healthcare benefits, and doubling-down on a system of cyclical lay-offs that leave most HUDS workers with no source of income for up to four months every year. HUDS workers have been in negotiation with the Harvard University Administration since May, but the university refuses to budge.

Despite the fact that HUDS workers earn a competitive hourly wage, cyclical lay-offs prevent the overwhelming majority of workers from earning a livable salary. During these lay-offs, workers are prohibited from collecting unemployment benefits due to Harvard's "non-profit" status. When combined with the proposed healthcare cuts, this arrangement will push our community's most vulnerable members into poverty, and prevent them from taking care of their families. We join our voices with those of HUDS workers in demanding an annual minimum salary of \$35,000 and equitable healthcare coverage. As students and student organizations, we support the HUDS workers wholeheartedly, and will continue to have their backs in their moment of vulnerability and struggle, just as they have always had ours.

It is unacceptable for workers to be left out in the cold while the administration raked in over \$7 billion dollars in the past three years alone. HUDS workers are the backbone of this institution, and represent some of the most socio-economically and racially oppressed members of our community. The HUDS struggle is a class struggle. The HUDS struggle is a racial justice struggle. Harvard students and workers are united, and we will not let the administration bully its own employees into accepting a contract that threatens them with constant economic insecurity. An attack on one part of the Harvard community is an attack on us all; and when our community is under attack, what do we do? Rise up and fight back!

Support the HUDS Strike! The ball is in the administration's court. All they need to do is pay workers a fair salary and provide the same healthcare they have been providing for the past six years. As future lawyers and advocates, it is our responsibility to follow in the courageous footsteps of Thurgood Marshall, Ruth Bader Ginsburg, and other social justice trailblazers. We the students of Harvard Law School refuse to abandon HUDS workers in their struggle for justice!

In Solidarity,

Harvard National Lawyer's Guild

Students for Inclusion

Reclaim Harvard Law

Harvard Law School Justice for Palestine

Black Law Student Association

Harvard Lambda

Harvard La Alianza

Asian Pacific American Law Student Association

South Asian Law Student Association

Project No One Leaves

American Constitution Society

*Unbound: Harvard Journal of the Legal Left*

Harvard Law and Behavioral Science Program

Harvard Law and Social Change Program

Food Law and Policy Clinic