



Goldsmiths Precarious Workers' Bulletin

23rd Oct 2018

Hardship Fund for Cleaners

After the announcement of the in-housing, the *Justice for Cleaners* campaign group set-up a hardship fund for all cleaners negatively affected by the restructure imposed by ISS in August. Goldsmiths' staff members and other members of the community have raised money in solidarity with those affected.

Small one off payments are available to workers who have been unable to come to work since the restructure or whose hours have been cut since the restructure. We have already managed to support two workers who had been out of work for a month because of the restructure.

If you have been impacted in these ways or know of any colleagues who have been financially hit by the restructure please contact:

Goldsmithsjustice4cleaners@gmail.com

These contributions will be provided confidentially. Your employer and your colleagues do not need to know that you have received money from this hardship fund.

Update on in-housing process for cleaners

Following the excitement of the news of the 30th of September that Goldsmiths management will be bringing cleaners in-house, many cleaners are feeling deflated that no representative of the senior management team have communicated this announcement to the workforce directly. Cleaners have been left in the lurch by management and are still waiting to be told what in-housing means for their immediate and future working conditions. No timeline has been given explaining the length of time that the 'transition' period will take and exactly when and under what conditions they will be made direct members of Goldsmiths staff.

ISS, the cleaners' current employer, has taken advantage of managements' silence. They have already arranged a meeting with cleaners, claiming that the transition period will last until at least August 2019. This lack of clarity creates a great deal of anxiety for workers who continue to be overworked and poorly treated by ISS since the announcement. It is the duty of Goldsmiths management to give cleaners the respect they deserve and properly communicate information about employment changes that will affect their lives.

A working group has been established by management to oversee the in-housing process for cleaners. So far we know that this group will include members of the senior management team, a Unison officer, a Unison representative from the cleaners and a representative from the Student Union. It is vital that cleaners have a say in who is involved in this group.

“Rise of the precarious workers”

The Independent Workers Union of Great Britain (IWGB) have called for a national demonstration on the 30th October for all precarious workers to condemn employment practices which undercut workers’ rights. The event coincides with IWGB’s court case against UBER and a strike held by outsourced cleaners at Senate House, University of London. Spokesperson from IWGB says “That’s why all precarious workers, from Deliveroo couriers to outsourced workers, will be marching together demanding an end to precarious work and a revival of the basic employment rights that we are being denied.”

The march will start at 8:00am at Transport for London 197 Blackfriars Road, go past the Royal Courts of Justice and end at the University of London, where workers are fighting to end outsourcing. All are welcome.

UCU Ballot for Pay and Inequality

The Goldsmiths branch of UCU were unable to reach the threshold for voter turnout in the recent national UCU ballot for industrial action over pay and diversity. This is a massive blow for casualised academic workers and staff impacted by existing pay inequalities who picketed with colleagues during the USS pensions strike.

Justice for Workers groups show solidarity with striking workers in Paris working in the Park Hyatt Vendome

Members from Justice for Cleaners groups from LSE, Kings College, Goldsmiths, UoL and SOAS have sent messages of solidarity to cleaning and housekeeping staff from the Park Hyatt Vendome hotel who have been on indefinite strike since the 21st September. The workers are striking with the CGT-HPE union for better pay and the end outsourcing. After the second week of the strike two workers were critically injured by security staff who were sent by the hotel management to silence the strikers by any means. A number of campaigners in London staged a demonstration outside the Park Hyatt Regency in solidarity with workers in Paris.



Goldsmiths Justice for Cleaners campaigners show solidarity with Park Hyatt strikers.

Important Dates

Wednesday 24th October – Anti-casualisation meeting for all AL’s and GTT’s at Deptford Town Hall 109 12 – 1 pm

Tuesday 30th October – IWGB national demonstration for all precarious workers

Thursday 1st November – Solidarity screening of *Nightcleaners* for Goldsmiths cleaners run by the Centre for Urban and Community Research. All money from the screening will go toward the cleaners’ hardship fund. All welcome. Media Research Building 1 17:30 – 20:00.

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