

**Our Contact Proposal: [full text](#) and [summary](#)** mohsen mostafav

The following are anonymized testimonies shared by non-citizen workers in support of our proposals for Article 13, on Non-citizen Student Worker Rights. We will update this sheet and the website as we receive more testimonies – if you have anything you would like to share, please contact our International Students Working Group at [iswg@hgsu.org](mailto:iswg@hgsu.org).

**Student Worker #1:** After hearing about ICE showing up at other universities, my friends and I have been living in fear. We have shared location services with each other to monitor where we are amidst threats of deportation and have joined local ICE watch chats which help me get a sense that my community is looking out for me. This is something that has felt necessary because there is deep mistrust in the University. I've seen faculty, trying to be helpful, scramble to post notices of "this is ICE free space" in their offices or signs like that to later find out that none of that is actually protective and it is just adding to the confusion. Having clear rules about where ICE can access and how the university is enforcing its judicial warrant requirements would be very helpful. I personally haven't used my desk since March, and opt for the library or home instead because the university doesn't feel like a safe environment. And I have friends who have opted to do the bulk of their work from home.

Additionally, during this past semester, I often felt like I was navigating policies alone. Not unlike [redacted name of student worker], but very much without his expertise, friends and colleagues have turned to me to ask questions about university policies that I don't have answers to. To try to mitigate this, me and some students set up a space for non-citizen students in our specific program to come hear from us (on a weekly basis) because there was no clear information or no information at all coming from the University. Although I appreciate the kind of legal scrutiny the University is under, the silence is deafening. We had roughly 20-30 students attending on a regular basis to get updates. I want open communication between the University and the Union so that they can do the work to help clarify policies, given the little information we are getting.

One last point. Currently, I don't have clarity on how given the current threats I will be able to finish my degree. One of the major barriers is my in-unit teaching requirement, which if allowed to be remote, would allow me to continue to make progress and still fulfill my in-unit teaching. University policy currently requires me to be in person on campus in order to teach. In the face of potential ICE action or sweeping deportation efforts, given the current university policies and work expectations, I would be forced to choose between my safety and my livelihood, and in the event that I was legally required to leave the country I would lose my job and income entirely. The proposed changes in this article I would ensure that in the worst case scenario, I could still continue to teach and study at Harvard, even if I am unable to do so in person.

### Testimonies in support of greater legal support

**Student Worker 2:** I tried connecting with HRI but given the number of requests I was not able to secure representation proactively -- out-of-pocket legal costs deterred me from seeking representation (I don't remember how much I was asked to pay but can find out).

**Student Worker 3:** If I was to be detained, and the university was to put me on involuntary leave before due process is completed I would lose my ability to pay my rent or cover my legal fees, furthering the situation of precarity.

### Testimonies in support of greater access to remote work and student/work status protections

**Student Worker 4:** The only thing preventing me from completing my degree abroad is current University regulations, both in terms of the required courses I'm asked to take on site and the number of teaching credits I need to complete which I can't complete without a valid immigration status,

**Student Worker 5:** The major barrier in the completion of my degree is my in-unit teaching requirement, which if allowed to be remote, would allow me to continue to make progress and still fulfill my in-unit teaching. University policy currently requires me to be in person on campus in order to teach. In the face of potential ICE action or sweeping deportation efforts, given the current university policies and work expectations, I would be forced to choose between my safety and my livelihood, and in the event that I was legally required to leave the country I would lose my job income entirely. The proposed changes would ensure that in the worst case scenario, I could still continue to teach and study at Harvard, even if I am unable to be in person on campus.

**Student Worker 6:** When SEVP was revoked I had no idea if my funding would continue. When SEVIS statuses were being revoked I had no idea what would happen if mine was unlawfully revoked too. My advisor was kind enough to reassure me that she had made arrangements to help me if that happened but I shouldn't have to rely on her kindness. As a non-citizen, I'm here to provide expertise and testimony on article 13 on non-citizen student workers rights

### Testimonies in support of better communication from the University & ICE protections

**Student Worker 7:** During this past semester, I often felt like I was navigating policies alone. Me and some students had to set up a space for non-citizen students in our program to come here from us (on a weekly) basis because there was no information coming from the University. We had roughly 20-30 students attending on a regular basis to get updates. A regular forum between the union and the university would help clarify policies and preempt confusion.

**Student Worker 8:** After hearing about ICE showing up at other universities, my friends and I have been living in fear. We have shared location services with each other to monitor where we are and joined local ICE watch chats. Clear rules about access and warrant requirements would have given me peace of mind. I haven't used my desk since March, and opt for the library or home instead because the university doesn't feel like a safe environment.