

GWU Seattle Chapter

Statement of Demands to GWU International

5/31/2020



We as members of the Seattle GWU Chapter are angry and appalled by actions taken by members and leaders of the GWU International organization. Their actions were condescending and dismissive towards POC doing difficult and vital work for free, and those members were unjustly pushed out of roles where they were most needed. We are also bewildered at the lack of action taken to deal with this behavior that breaks our organization's rules and blatantly is against our Points of Unity and Code of Conduct.

First, we are addressing the actions of GWU Member Marijam who engaged in exclusionary behavior and bullying, then GWU communications committee resources were used to claim that an accountability process was in place that does not exist. This is unfair and cruel towards organizers who have left GWU and towards organizers still trying their best to work in these conditions. This is the first step toward wider needed reform, we need to know the International group can address these blatant examples of harassment from our leadership in order to know they will be able to enact positive change as an organization going forward.

We have three immediate demands to be made of Game Workers Unite International that need direct address and/or response by the end of the day June 7th, 9PM EST.

- **Demand #1:** Member Marijam in the Game Workers Unite International shall be removed from her position of influence, control of the @GameWorkers Twitter account, and removed from the International organization. Her statements about 'stepping away' and GWU's public silence are far from sufficient.
- **Demand #2:** The GWU International Group must publicly apologize to the members and prior members that have been harmed and harassed by Member Marijam. This apology must be specific, and include a timeline for our third demand.
- **Demand #3:** The release of the new OTP charter must be accelerated and approval of the creation of the Anti-Racism Committee to address this situation and all member discrimination be made top priority of said charter.

These solutions are not complete but are actions that must be taken now, more work is to be done in the immediate future to correct the endemic latent racism present in the entire organization. Game Workers Unite is a grassroots organization of different local chapters who until this point have believed that the International group was a support system operating in our best interests, and we allowed the International to implicitly speak for us with little accountability. No more. If there is not an acceptable response from GWU International, we will consider all necessary responses, up to and including the separation of GWU Seattle from the larger GWU International Group.

We ask all other Chapters to join us in this stance of anti-racism and go beyond these demands to build a network of anti-racist policies and support that are actually enforced. We ask all Chapters to join us in supporting POC workers who are doing the hard work and being ignored.

In solidarity,
GWU Seattle