



CPW-UAW

A UNION FOR POSTDOCTORAL RESEARCHERS AT COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY



CPW-UAW Local 4100 Executive Board Statement of Support for New York City District Council of Carpenters

As postdoctoral and associate researchers working at Columbia University, we recently won a strong first union contract, which guarantees rights and protections for our working conditions, by joining collectively through our union. That is why we also recognize the importance of standing in solidarity with other workers and their unions, to defend every worker's access to these same protections and ensure the right to a safe and healthy workplace.

Unfortunately, Columbia has recently contracted with two companies to carry out their construction project on West 125th St. that do not respect workers' rights. One of them, Mamais Contracting, was recently sued for underpaying workers (*Geovany Serrano et al. v. Mamais Contracting Corp. et al.*, S.D.N.Y. 12-cv-6374). The other, Trident General Contracting, was sued in Federal court for racial discrimination and retaliatory firing (*Michael Stewart and Sean Thomas v. Trident General Contracting, LLC et al.*, S.D.N.Y. 19-cv-5406). Moreover, Trident General Contracting currently has an ongoing labor dispute with the New York City District Council of Carpenters for not paying the area standard wages to all their employees including providing health and retirement benefits.

By hiring these companies, Columbia University is perpetuating these irresponsible and discriminatory practices, which are a threat to all workers at Columbia. As the Executive Board of CPW-UAW Local 4100, we stand with the District Council in calling on Columbia University to support construction workers and provide safe working conditions by committing to uphold area standard wages and benefits on all their projects.

In Solidarity,

The CPW-UAW Local 4100 Executive Board

Cora Bergantinos-Crespo, PhD

Nicholas Tay, PhD

Álvaro Cuesta-Domínguez, PhD

Panos Oikonomou, PhD

Medini Annavaajhala, PhD

Andrew Zaharia, PhD

Melissa McKenzie, MD, PhD

PJ Brun, PhD