

Speak Out Now in Healthcare

November 14, 2023

Kaiser Contract Ratified: What Are the Possibilities?

When negotiations between the Coalition of Kaiser Permanente Unions and the bosses of Kaiser Permanente stalled, 75,000 workers went on a three day strike. Following the strike, the union and the hospital came to a tentative agreement. In the end, 49% of eligible voters participated in the election and 98.5% of those voters voted in favor of ratifying the agreement. The Coalition has described this as a historic victory.

Yes, it is important when workers come together on the picket line and fight for a living wage that they deserve. But we deserve more than just wages that keep up with inflation. And we deserve to have a transparent bargaining process and clear communication about what we are voting for and how to vote (for example, the voting locations weren't always accurate).

So this strike has given us a chance to reflect on the possibilities. Given less than half of us voted for the contract, what would it mean if we had full participation? And what would it mean if we had been actively involved in the process to improve our working conditions from the beginning? What would it mean if we had a union that was run from the bottom up?

Stand Up Fight Back!

When you're fed up with mistreatment on the job, your only option is to organize!

The bosses at Highland Hospital have been messing around with our payroll for years. They have been failing to provide employees payment for all hours worked – workers are missing pay for sick leave, breaks, meal times, and more! How dare they!

And this is exactly why we Highland hospital workers had to get organized. We presented a petition to Highland executives demanding the retribution that we are legally entitled. We have held meetings with the boss and spoke at board meetings. And now former Highland hospital employees are threatening a potential class action and representative action lawsuit against Alameda Health System.

Sometimes it might feel like there is no recourse on the job for all the mistreatment. When you talk to your coworkers you can build solidarity, hear one another's common issues, come together and organize for improved working conditions and a better world!

Healthcare Workers for Palestine

Across the globe, healthcare workers are standing up for Palestinians, in a variety of ways. Some are signing petitions calling for a cease fire to stop Israel's continued attacks on hospitals and the population. Others are writing their unions and hospital administrators to pressure these institutions to call this crisis what it is, a genocide, and to stop minimizing the suffering of Palestinians in their official statements. Healthcare workers are also holding teach-ins with Palestinian healthcare workers or those on the front lines in Gaza.

Plus, on Friday November 3rd, healthcare workers at San Francisco General Hospital held a walk-out in solidarity to end the health crisis in Gaza. On Sunday November 12th, multiple people donning scrubs or lab coats marched with a banner, "Healthcare Workers for the People of Palestine," through the streets of San Francisco. And these are just a couple examples.

(Visit @healthcareworkersforpalestine on IG to see more!)

Healthcare workers are coordinating many more actions, letter writing, die-ins, and more, to do whatever they can to show their opposition to this unacceptable violence against Palestinians. So if you are outraged about the crisis in Gaza - you are not alone! Healthcare workers at many hospitals in the Bay Area are organizing, so talk with your coworkers about what YOU can do to stand up for what's right.



NATIONAL DAY OF HEALTHCARE WORKER ACTION FOR GAZA

We must uphold our ethical duty to
defend the lives and wellbeing of all.

We must unite to protect the lives of
healthcare workers in Palestine.

**WORLD CHILDREN'S DAY
NOVEMBER 20, 2023**

Additional information will be announced soon.
For updates follow @donoharmcoalition