

Dear Ben Begleiter,

I write with a message of support from the Association of University Teachers (AUT) at the University of Sheffield, UK. The executive committee of the Sheffield AUT is deeply concerned to learn of the struggle that you face to gain what, for us, would seem reasonable rights to organised representation in the workplace.

The role played by graduate students in the provision of support for teaching and learning activities is internationally recognised as vital to the effectiveness of higher education delivery. Graduate students and researchers are clearly key players in the educational process. Their substantial role in teaching and research activities provides the bedrock for a range of academic endeavours. We strongly welcome the opportunity to endorse your calls for access to equality of opportunity and fair pay within the workplace. Consequently, we wish you every success in gaining the right for graduate students and researchers to organise their labour and workplace representation at Yale.

With all best wishes for success in your ongoing negotiations.

Yours sincerely,

Richard Ward,
Hon. Treasurer,
Sheffield University Local Association,
Association of University Teachers,
United Kingdom.