



American Federation  
of Teachers, AFL-CIO

October 7, 2016

UNISON  
c/o Adrian Morgan  
UNISON Centre  
130 Euston Road  
London NW1 2AY  
UNITED KINGDOM

---

AFT Teachers  
AFT PSRP  
AFT Higher Education  
AFT Public Employees  
AFT Nurses and Health  
Professionals

---

555 New Jersey Ave. N.W.  
Washington, DC 20001  
202-879-4400  
www.aft.org

---

Randi Weingarten  
PRESIDENT

Loretta Johnson  
SECRETARY-TREASURER

Mary Cathryn Ricker  
EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT

---

VICE PRESIDENTS

Shelvy Y. Abrams  
Mary J. Armstrong  
Barbara Bowen  
Christine Campbell  
Zeph Capo  
Alex Caputo-Pearl  
Donald Carlisto  
Larry J. Carter Jr.  
Kathy A. Chavez  
Melissa Cropper  
Evelyn DeJesus  
Marietta A. English  
Eric Feaver  
Francis J. Flynn  
Catalina Fortino  
David Gray  
David Hecker  
Jan Hochadel  
Fedrick C. Ingram  
Jerry T. Jordan  
Ted Kirsch  
Frederick E. Kowal  
Karen GJ Lewis  
Karen E. Magee  
Louis Malfaro  
Joanne M. McCall  
John McDonald  
Martin Messner  
Daniel J. Montgomery  
Michael Mulgrew  
Ruby J. Newbold  
Candice Owley  
Andrew Pallotta  
Joshua Pechthalt  
Paul Pecorale  
David J. Quolke  
Stephen Rooney  
Denise Specht  
Wayne Spence  
Tim Stoelb  
Richard Stutman  
Ann Twomey  
Adam Urbanski

Dear Brothers and Sisters:

On behalf of the 1.6 million members of the American Federation of Teachers, I am writing to express our staunch support for Derby's teaching assistants and school support staff, as your local Labor council imposes extraordinary measures to require many educators to work longer hours but receive less pay. I have a personal affinity with your fight as I started my career in education and union organizing 50 years ago as a teacher's aide in a Baltimore elementary school, where I earned \$2.25 an hour and received no benefits. I have been on that line where you are today – many times. I am with you in spirit and our members stand beside you in the industrial action you have taken to protect your work and livelihoods.

Our governments -- on both sides of the Atlantic -- have no cause to balance their budgets on the backs of hard-working education employees in the name of austerity. You deserve economic justice and fairness in return for the steadfast service you have given the Derby community over your careers. We cannot stand by while public employees are scapegoated, and we cannot allow you to be blamed or punished for an economic crisis you did not create.

Here in the United States, thousands of union members and voters will send a clear message in next month's elections to defeat those who seek to rollback workers' rights. We know that the same spirit and determination among working men and women to fight injustice will also prevail in Derby. Count on the American Federation of Teachers to stand with you in solidarity for the battles that lay ahead.

In Unity,

Dr. Loretta Johnson  
Secretary-Treasurer

LJ: mc opeiu#2 afl-cio

---

The **American Federation of Teachers** is a union of professionals that champions fairness; democracy; economic opportunity; and high-quality public education, healthcare and public services for our students, their families and our communities. We are committed to advancing these principles through community engagement, organizing, collective bargaining and political activism, and especially through the work our members do.

