



## GRADUATE EMPLOYEE ORGANIZATION – UAW 2322

The Abolition Committee of the Graduate Employee Organization of UMass Amherst (UAW Local 2322) stands in solidarity with calls for abolition from the UMass Amherst undergraduate student body, Western Mass. community organizations, and students and workers at colleges and universities across the higher education landscape. Abolition is a multi-faceted political endeavor rooted in Black liberation and Indigenous sovereignty, and there are many precedents for labor union coalition with abolitionist movements, [including our local UAW2322](#).

In our capacity as graduate students, educators, and learners, we call on GEO membership to work purposefully, expediently, and collectively toward the following:

### Our immediate demands

- Defund the UMass Amherst Police Department (UMPD) and reallocate budgetary resources toward student services
- Sever ties between UMass and the New England Police Benevolent Association and International Brotherhood of Police Officers
- Sever ties between UMass and the prison industrial complex (PIC)

### Our ongoing goals and practices

- Building solidarity with abolitionist community groups inside and outside of the university
- Decarcerating and decolonizing the UMass curriculum
- Centering Black liberation and Indigenous sovereignty in all these endeavors
- Educating GEO membership on the life-affirming goals of abolition and expanding our collective imagination for the possibilities of an abolitionist university

As members of a union with a long history of activism and organizing, the Abolition Committee will offer leadership in this work, beginning with an educational campaign about abolition intended for membership. Nationwide, however — and worldwide, in fact — abolition does not wait for our education, but demands a response now, indeed *before* now, to safeguard Black and Indigenous life and create the conditions for working, teaching, and learning in meaningful and sustaining ways. In the words of Ruth Wilson Gilmore, “abolition is about presence, not absence. It’s about building life-affirming institutions.”

### Want to get involved?

- Contact and consider joining the Abolition Committee by emailing [abolition@geouaw.org](mailto:abolition@geouaw.org)
- Learn more about abolition through this [How to Support Black Liberation Locally](#) document
- Follow our educational social media campaign on [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#), and [Facebook](#)
- If you are part of an organization that would like to collaborate, [fill out this form](#)