

COMMERCE

Marriott sees worker strikes across the US

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Westin in Seattle is one of many Marriott-run hotels seeing worker strikes. Image credit: Westin

By STAFF REPORTS

Hospitality group Marriott International is facing worker strikes as union members fight against environments that allow injuries and sexual harassment to proliferate.

Now the largest hotel group in the world since its Starwood acquisition, Marriott is seeing strikes throughout numerous cities in the United States. San Francisco, Honolulu, Seattle and Philadelphia are few of the locations where Marriott staff will walkout, joined by many city officials to show their support.

Rally, marches and strikes

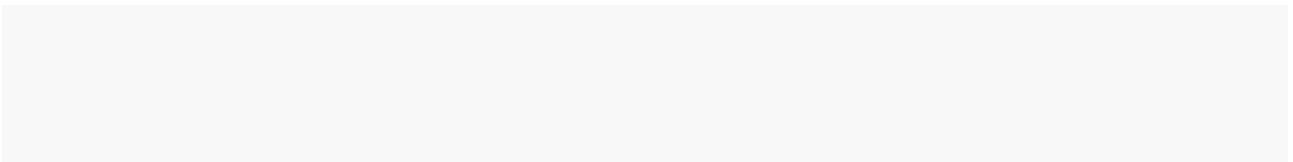
Marriott's image could be drastically damaged, as protestors in Seattle and other locations plan to speak directly to hotel guests.

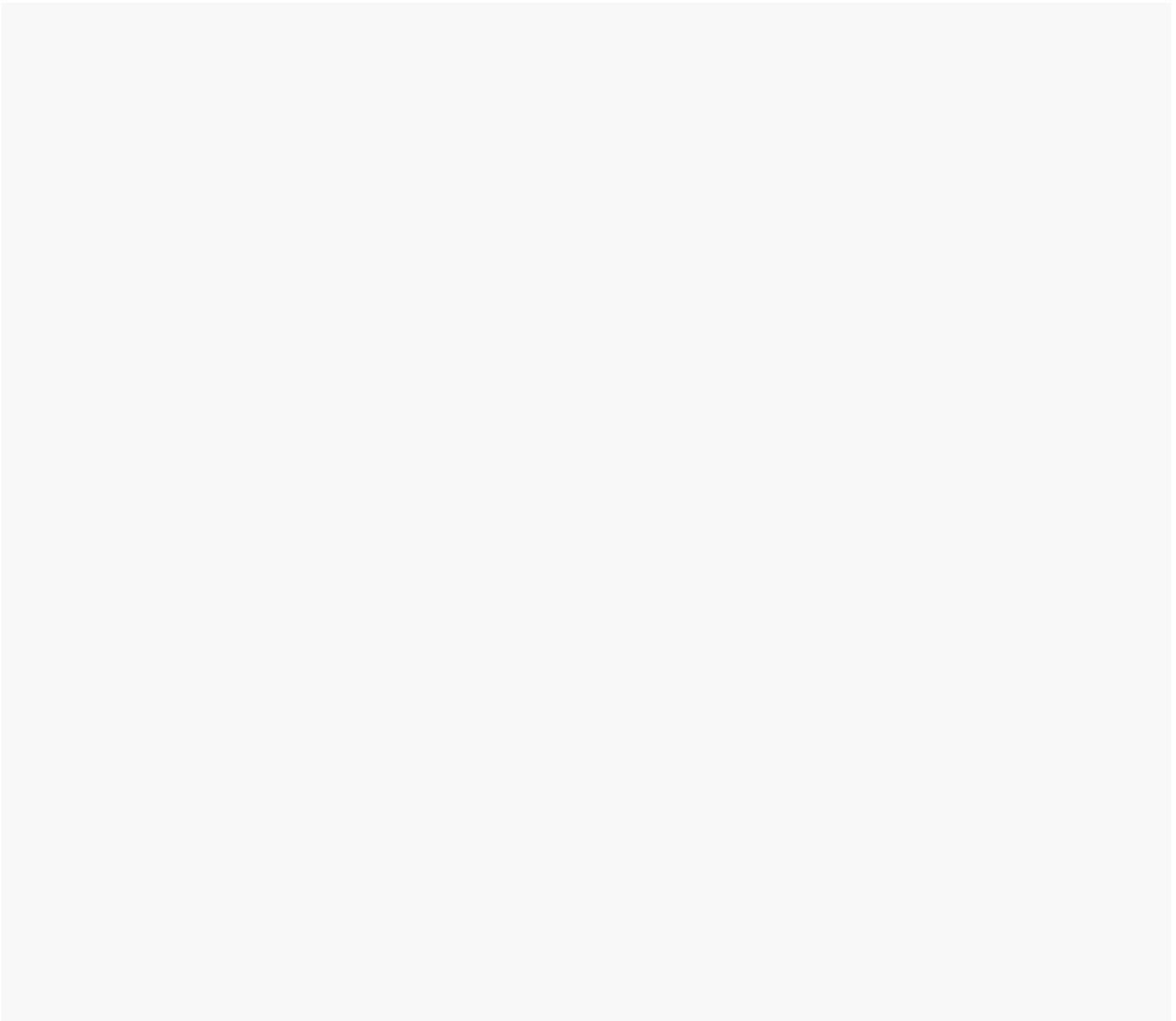
The reports come from BuzzFeed News, which spoke directly to a few workers plagued by issues from harsh working conditions. For instance, 53-year-old Minh Vuong, a housekeeper in Westin Seattle, was out of work for more than a year after getting hurt on the job due to too heavy of a workload, pressured to clean 15 rooms a day.

However, this is just one of the many issues union group Unite Here is fighting for reform in, including better wages and protection against violence and sexual harassment.

"I don't think Marriott wants an unsafe environment at all, but sometimes you've got to force people to do the right thing," said D. Taylor, national president at Unite Here, to BuzzFeed. "I think there's a real recognition that government's not going to take care of you.

"I think there's a recognition that big corporations aren't going to take care of you," he said. "So who's going to take care of you? I think folks are realizing they have to take care of themselves, through the vehicle of a union."





#tuesdaythoughts #unionproud #unitehere ?

A post shared by UNITE HERE (@unitehere) on May 15, 2018 at 10:14am PDT

Seven hotels run by Marriott will join the strikes in Boston, while a rally will take place in San Jose. BuzzFeed says it estimates thousands of workers will join marches across cities and rally in front of the Oakland Convention Center.

Marriott Vacations Worldwide Corp. also recently acquired luxury hotel group ILG along with all of ILG's properties, making the group even larger.

The acquisition was valued at around \$4.7 billion and comprises all of ILG's outstanding shares. Under the new cash-and-stock acquisition, all of ILG's properties will be integrated in Marriott's network of hotels around the world ([see story](#)).

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