

MEDIA/PUBLISHING

New Yorker employees protest outside Anna Wintour's home

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Protesters demand fair contracts from media company Cond Nast. Image credit: News Guild of New York

By LUXURY DAILY NEWS SERVICE

Earlier this week, union members of Cond Nast-owned publication *The New Yorker* staged a protest outside the Greenwich Village home of Anna Wintour, the fashion icon, editor and Cond Nast global chief content officer.

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On Monday morning, The New Yorker Union published a [website](#) demanding fair pay, reasonable healthcare costs, work-life balance, job security and good-faith negotiating. According to the site, union workers have been attempting to bargain with the media company over these demands for two and half years.

Workers' demands

According to the union website, some union members make as little as \$42,000 per year, and many of the longest-serving employees make less than \$60,000.

Faced with the financial realities of living in New York City, they suggest that members often struggle to make ends meet and are forced to make personal sacrifices to produce *The New Yorker's* award-winning journalism.

In terms of healthcare, the union found that Cond Nast has supposedly shifted the burden of healthcare costs onto its employees. Employees are proposing a framework to set reasonable limits that would prevent the company from disproportionately increasing employee premiums.



Employees have been demanding fair contracts for over two years. Image credit: *The New Yorker Union*

The union is also voicing concerns over work-life balance, saying that *The New Yorker* expects employees to work overtime or produce freelance assignments without providing adequate compensation. It demands the company acknowledge that workers are entitled to time off the clock, and that there should be limits on how much a job can encroach on employees' lives and creative freedom.

In the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, awareness of mental health has tremendously accelerated. With lockdowns, restrictions and layoffs, employers have had to seriously consider the state of their mental health offerings and benefits ([see story](#)).

The union has also proposed a substantive notice period for layoffs, which would allow it to advocate for job-saving alternatives. Union members laid off out of reverse seniority should receive enhanced severance, according to the website, to reward longer-serving employees' loyalty and to prevent the company from using layoffs as an end run around just-cause protections.

Union members have stated that Cond Nast is legally obligated to bargain with them in good faith, which means trading proposals on the record and in full view of its members.

Although the union website clearly states employees are not yet on strike, they are encouraging *New Yorker* readers and subscribers to join in their physical pickets throughout Manhattan, as well as digital events.

According to the *New York Times*, Cond Nast attempted to stave off the protest outside Ms. Wintour's home in an email to union employees that read, "targeting an individual's private home and publicly sharing its location is not acceptable."