



Carol Lombardini  
President  
Alliance of Motion Picture and Television Producers  
15301 Ventura Boulevard, Building E  
Sherman Oaks  
CA 91403  
United States

By email

15 September

Dear Ms Lombardini

## **YOUR DISPUTE WITH WGA EAST/WGA WEST AND SAG-AFTRA**

I am writing to you on behalf of the many thousands of Bectu members currently out of work as a direct result of your disputes with the WGA and SAG-AFTRA.

The industry in the United Kingdom, like the US, has ground to a halt because of this dispute and our members, who work as behind-the-scenes crew and background artists, have been laid off under 'force majeure' contracts with very little notice and nil pay. Others who work in the fashion sector, styling actors for promotional opportunities and events, have also lost work for the foreseeable future.

This crisis is not of the crew's making. Yet it is they who are paying the price of your failure to reach an acceptable agreement with our colleagues in the WGA and SAG-AFTRA. It is they who face no work and no income while the dispute drags on and they who bear the brunt of these protracted negotiations. It is surely undisputable that you have a responsibility to the workforce that is so integral to creating the content that you profit from.

The impact is huge and undeniable. 80% of UK film and TV workers we recently surveyed have had their employment directly impacted by your disputes, and three quarters are currently not working. 9 in 10 are worried about their financial security, and 6 in 10 are struggling with their mental health as a result of loss of work and/or financial worries.

You produce content in the UK because of the high-quality, sought after skills of the crew here, as well as the tax incentives and the excellent facilities offered by the studios. Yet our survey shows that a quarter of UK film and TV workers are considering leaving the industry because of its precarious nature. There is a very real danger that talented crew with transferable skills will take their expertise elsewhere. This should sound alarm bells to anyone who wants to see the UK and global industry thrive into the future.

The AMPTP must accept that it is the workforce that enables you to make the considerable profits that you do. It is time that you recognise that this workforce deserves a fair contract, to work reasonable hours and to have confidence that the introduction of Artificial

Bectu  
New Prospect House  
8 Leake Street  
London  
SE1 7NN

+44 7595 200 217  
Josie.emanuel@bectu.org.uk

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Intelligence should enhance workers' roles and not replace or take unfair advantage of them. It is time to address the huge inequalities within our industry and it is time for you to support crew through this shutdown.

We urge you to take seriously your responsibility to your workforce; writers, actors and crew; and to resume negotiations with WGA and SAG-AFTRA with a renewed and genuine resolve to reach a satisfactory agreement. This agreement must recognise that the workforce deserves fair remuneration for their contribution to making the industry such a success worldwide.

In the meantime, we urge you to put in place financial support for UK crew, represented by Bectu, who are suffering incredible hardship as a result of this crisis.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "Philippa Childs". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Philippa Childs

**Head of Bectu**