

## An open letter to Gloria Steinem

Dear Ms. Steinem,

We are the members of the Boston News Guild, and we are asking for your solidarity in our fight against outsourcing, and to preserve high-quality local journalism. On September 20, you have been invited to deliver introductory remarks at a WBUR event meant to highlight the progress women have made in media throughout history and in the past year.

One of the invited panelists is Linda Pizzuti Henry, CEO of Boston Globe Media Partners, which was purchased by her husband John Henry in 2013 and includes The Boston Globe, Boston.com, and STAT News. **For close to 1,000 days, our owners have not treated its employees in a "trailblazing" fashion**, attempting to break our union using a law firm that assisted former President Trump in his quest to undermine election results and dismantle our democracy.

We are fighting to preserve basic job security protections like successorship (essential in today's media market as outlets are bought and sold), just cause in discipline, limited outsourcing, arbitration, and seniority rights. Yet ownership has spent three years and hundreds of thousands of dollars battling to take away these longstanding protections.

While we've been fighting for a fair contract, Globe journalists have taken home a Pulitzer Prize in investigative reporting and risked our own health providing critical daily news coverage, during a global pandemic.

At Boston.com, we juggled breaking news, long-term pieces on issues like addiction, and the reemergence of the Black Lives Matter movement. Another Globe endeavor, the medical and health care publication. STAT News, meanwhile, has emerged as one of the nation's go-to sources for readable, reliable health coverage.

We did this all without a fair contract because the work of journalism matters deeply to us. Yet despite witnessing our dedication and professionalism daily throughout this pandemic, likely to be the biggest crisis of our lives, our owners continue to fight us on basic workplace rights.

As a co-founder of MS. magazine and feminist icon, you've been a powerful advocate for women's empowerment, for civil rights, and for union organization. We don't need to explain to you why a fair contract is so important – it's something you already know, as a founder of the Coalition of Labor Union Women.

**Our question for you is this:** Can you help us, by speaking out at the WBUR event and urging Globe ownership to do better?

Across our industry, reporters are notoriously underpaid and overworked. Globe journalists are united through the Boston Newspaper Guild, unlike so many other newsrooms, and our proud

union members have fought for decades to maintain the basic rights laid out in our contract. Yet many Globe journalists have left the company in recent years, troubled by the owners' attempts to strip away the heart and soul of our union.

Without basic labor protections, more and more journalists take their talents elsewhere or burn out and leave the field altogether. That hurts the community that depends on us to hold powerful people accountable, to inform the public, and to help keep our democracy vital and healthy. This is the work we love to do; more than anything, we want to put this contract fight behind us, and get back to fulfilling our journalistic mission.

Labor organizing is about fighting for life, literally: our health, our families, and, most importantly, our time. Linda Pizzuti Henry is a powerful woman, with an urgent opportunity before her — to step up and become a real trailblazer by fighting for, not against, the lives and rights of Globe employees.

The Henrys and Globe executives can end this fight at any time — they have the power to say enough is enough, and to choose to preserve the basic rights our journalists and staff have relied upon for decades. We ask you to play a part in bringing about that resolution, by telling ownership to do the right thing for workers at The Boston Globe, Boston.com, and STAT.

We stand in solidarity with one another, committed to continue our fight for a fair contract, no matter what it takes or how long we must wait.

Thank you for considering our request, and for everything you've done to pave the way for the work we're doing now. We are lifted by your strong example, and by our hope that you will stand in solidarity with us.

Gratefully,

The Boston Newspaper Guild