ReWork

MISSION

ReWork, a project of the UCLA Labor Center, employs the principles of research justice: we recognize students, workers, and community members as experts, approach research as a tool for action, and promote equal access to information. We believe the future depends on economic equality, which includes safe, dignified jobs for vulnerable communities.



OUR WORK



Applied Research

We collaborate with workers and community partners to document key trends in low-wage industries and keep employers accountable to labor laws. Our research includes analyzing workplace standards and wage enforcement.



Capacity Building

We provide technical assistance, including worker rights trainings, popular education curricula, and research models, for worker centers and unions across multiple industries.



Student Involvement

We engage students through internships and hands-on research projects; e.g., students in the Labor Summer Research Internship Program researched, analyzed, and documented the challenges for young service employees of combining work and school.



Alliances

We build relationships between research, community, labor, and government partners to help leaders take action on key workplace issues.

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AREAS OF RESEARCH



Creating a Just Economy

Through our research and partnerships with unions, worker centers, and statewide agencies, ReWork examines conditions in low-wage industries, including retail, garment, restaurant, nail salon, and domestic work, and advocates for safe and dignified jobs. We support policies and enforcement measures that create an economy that works for everyone. These measures include fair scheduling practices, safeguards against wage theft, increased minimum wage, paid sick time, and antidiscrimination protections.



Strong Families and Communities

ReWork seeks to engage workers in all aspects of their lives—as parents, students, community members, and leaders. We support parent workers, young workers, black workers, and immigrants through participatory research approaches, leadership initiatives, and multimedia interventions that empower communities.



Future of Work in a Changing Economy

The nature of work is shifting away from full-time, long-term jobs toward new forms of precarious employment that can be unpredictable and unstable. ReWork produces research focused on workers in the emerging gig economy and considers the ways technology can help or exploit them. As the economy evolves, we aim to ensure that workers have a voice in setting industry standards and determining how technology is used.

KEY PUBLICATIONS

Nail Files: A Study of Nail Salon Workers and Industry in the United States. (2018). UCLA Labor Center and California Healthy Nail Salon Collaborative.

More Than a Gig: A Survey of Ride-hailing Drivers in Los Angeles. (2018). UCLA Labor Center.

Hour Crisis: Unstable Schedules in the Los Angeles Retail Sector. (2018). UCLA Labor Center and the Los Angeles Alliance for a New Economy (LAANE).

Ready to Work, Uprooting Inequity: Black Workers in Los Angeles County. (2017). UCLA Labor Center, Los Angeles Black Worker Center, UCLA Institute for Research on Labor and Employment.

Profile, Practices and Needs of California's Domestic Work Employers. (2016). UCLA Labor Center.

Conveying Carwash Owners' Stories: Competition, Diversity, and Growth in the Southern California Carwash Industry. (2015). UCLA Labor Center.

I am a #YOUNGWORKER: Retail and Restaurant Workers in Los Angeles. (2015). UCLA Labor Center.

Hanging by a Thread! Los Angeles Garment Workers' Struggle to Access Quality Care for Their Children. (2015). UCLA Labor Center, Garment Worker Center, and Research Action and Design.

Los Angeles Rising: A City that Works for Everyone. (2015). Economic Roundtable, UCLA Labor Center, and UCLA Institute for Research on Labor and Employment.