

Motionens nummer 15

Motion till SULF:s kongress 2021

Strengthen SULF's legal services and member support in relation to employment and migration issues

The initial points of contact for SULF members who require support with employment and migration issues are the local Saco representatives, the SULF member helpline, and in some cases SULF's elected representatives. All of these are supported by the ombud unit at SULF's central office, including SULF's two directly employed lawyers.

It is crucial that SULF has the knowledge and personnel resources to provide timely advice on key issues affecting our members. It is the experience of SULF- DCA that ombudspersons' understanding of the formal and material circumstances of doctoral candidates is in some cases inadequate. This is perhaps best exemplified by SULF's slow and confused reaction to this year's changes in the Aliens Act (*utlänningslagen*) with specific requirements coming to light during the summer holiday. Our members have felt abandoned and unsupported, as the high level of stress and anxiety disrupts their work and family life, and future plans.

Access to support in situations of conflict and confusion is one of the key reasons for joining SULF, not just for doctoral candidates, but other personnel categories too. Members should find it easy to get in touch with SULF and receive advice and support of high quality and timeliness to mitigate stress and anxiety level.

Furthermore, legal and judicial activism is one way in which we can advance our political agenda as a trade union. In recent times SULF has been very restrictive in pursuing court cases as a way of setting precedent, even though economic resources are in place for this. A more aggressive stance in pursuing court cases would increase SULF's visibility and appeal as an organisation that fights for the rights of its members.

The SULF Doctoral Candidate Association therefore submit:

- that SULF should ensure that adequate resources are in place to provide legal services and member support in relation to employment, migration issues and legislative contingency, and that these services should be easily accessible and of high quality and timeliness;
- that SULF should explore possibilities of collaboration with legal scholars to publish legal analysis and opinions on issues affecting our members;

- that SULF should fearlessly pursue legal action on behalf of its members, in cases where this is possible and appropriate, where such action may serve to set legal precedent, to increase our visibility, or to advance our political agenda.

For the SULF Doctoral Candidate Association
Jenny Iao-Jørgensen, Chairperson