

# Young US Unionist seeks to change his country

<https://www.trabajadores.cu/documento/lunes-27-de-mayo-de-2024/?tmstv=1716857057>

Miguel Bautista is one of the grassroots leaders of the US restaurant, hotel and sewing workers union. His worst nightmare is the greed of employers *Tabajadores, Yimel Díaz Malmierca*

Miguel Bautista is barely 25 years old and is coordinator of one of the grassroots organizations of the American union that brings together workers in restaurants, hotels and sewing workshops. Currently there are more than 32 thousand members in 150 work centers in different cities of the country. For many observers, the presence of a young man among union leaders is not an isolated event.

An article in *The Washington Post* explained, for example, that “many leaders of the movement are in their early 20s; They lean towards the nickname 'Generation U', for Union (union). Today, union approval is the highest it has been since 1965, with a popularity rating of 68 percent, rising to 77 percent among Americans ages 18 to 34, according to a recent Gallup poll.” Other observers, such as New York university professor Tatiana Cozzarelli, point out that we may be facing a generation that refuses to abide by the rules that neoliberalism imposed on the labor movement for decades: “This is a precarious generation that is highly indebted and has little. what to lose

It is a highly politicized generation, which challenges the status quo and hopes that unions can be a democratic tool to defend their interests against the bosses. This is also a generation that experienced and participated in the Black Lives Matter movement and many are making connections between the Black liberation struggle and unionization.

Bautista, for her part, recognizes that union activity in the United States has been changing and has done so very quickly: “We are living in a time of training for unions and workers,” she says. “We have strikes across the country and we see new strategies, including many employees trying to form unions, especially in service sectors like Starbucks, Amazon and Trader Joes. At the same time, corporations’ pressure the Government to weaken that right to unionize,” he reflects. The nightmare of its members regarding work has to do with the greed of employers: “Corporations do not want to pay a fair salary, that is why we have to complain to them with strikes, boycotts, political pressure actions and all the ways we can. our scope. "This fight is impossible without solidarity among workers."

The young man participated in the **International Meeting of Solidarity with Cuba** and against Imperialism, which took place in Havana at the beginning of May. This was his first visit to the Greater Antilles and, like many others, he traveled in search of the truths hidden in imperial propaganda. “I bring to my country the experience of what true solidarity is, not only with Cuba, but also with Palestine, with my own compatriots during the COVID-19 pandemic, with Africa during the Ebola epidemic, against imperialism everywhere.” the world. We lack solidarity in the US, but I will do my part to transform that perspective and also to change the treatment that my government gives to Cubans,” he concluded.

Miguel visited Cuba as part of the delegation of “*Labor and Youth Activists*” organized by the *Los Angeles committee Hands Off Cuba*. <http://ushandsoffcubacommittee.com/>



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