

Statement on Peace

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Adopted by the ETUCE Conference, the Regional Conference of Education International, on 26-27 November 2024

Further to and consistent with the Resolutions adopted by the [9th and 10th EI Congress](#) in Buenos Aires in 2024, the [Resolutions](#) adopted by the ETUCE Conference in 2020, the ETUCE Extraordinary Conference in 2021, and the ETUCE Special Conference in Liège in 2022, this ETUCE Conference stands firmly in support of peace and condemns all acts of war and violence.

In the face of ongoing military conflicts across the European region and beyond, we urge an immediate cessation of hostilities and a concerted effort towards peaceful resolutions in accordance with international law.

War inflicts immeasurable suffering upon innocent civilians, especially children, disrupts education systems, and undermines the fabric of societies. War often destabilises the position of women in societies, with sexual and gender based violence frequently deployed as a means of additional terror in conflict situations. It also hinders sustainable development and social cohesion, not only within the countries involved in the conflict but also in the neighbouring countries that are also impacted socially, economically and security-wise. We condemn acts of aggression which have fermented tensions and created armed conflicts.

As education trade unions, we recognise the intolerable toll that war and conflicts take on workers' fundamental rights including their right to organise and participate in collective bargaining and tripartite consultation, as recognised in the ILO Convention No. 98 and Recommendation No.152. To this purpose, we reiterate the importance of ILO Recommendation No. 205 on Employment and Decent Work for Peace and Resilience, and we call on governments and international organisations to ensure full respect of these provisions.

Education is a powerful tool for conflict prevention and resolution, and investment in inclusive public education for all must be prioritised as a means to build lasting peace. We recognise the paramount importance of fostering a culture of peace and respect for human dignity within our communities and imparting values of tolerance, dialogue, and understanding among future generations.

ETUCE believes that current concepts of teaching history as a string of wars, conflicts and political acts should be subject to deep reflection, and we call for a change in the approaches to teaching this vital subject so that the teaching of history should prepare future generations to look to the future, not to wallow in stereotypes and prejudices or be subjected to brainwashing. History is a vital subject and should be taught in way that ensures students are knowledgeable about the past, both the good and

34 the bad, and prepares them for the future. ETUCE recognizes and stresses the professional autonomy
35 of teachers in both making the curriculum and determining the way a subject should be taught. No
36 government or employer should decide on their own what or how a subject should be taught, or oblige
37 teachers to teach a subject in a specific way, or with a specific content, for its own political purposes.

38 We call upon policymakers and governments to ensure that initiatives on defence and security of
39 European countries are not funded on the expense of sectors that promote peacebuilding,
40 reconciliation, and the sustainable development of European societies, including public education,
41 social support policies, health systems, housing and others.

42 Diplomacy, dialogue, and peace education must be prioritised as the primary means to address
43 grievances, resolve conflicts, and achieve lasting peace. We call on governments to ensure a full
44 participation of trade unions and social partners, as well as the gender perspective and the respect for
45 diversity in all peace processes and discussions.

46 Furthermore, we urge all parties involved in ongoing conflicts to prioritise the protection of civilians,
47 including students, education personnel, and educational institutions, in accordance with international
48 humanitarian law. Education must be safeguarded as a fundamental human right, even in times of
49 conflict.

50 In solidarity with affected communities, calling for peace, based on recognising the sovereignty and
51 territorial integrity of each country, and ensuring that aggressor countries are sanctioned so that
52 justice can be achieved, and in pursuit of a more just and peaceful world, ETUCE reaffirms its
53 commitment to advocating for peace, promoting non-violent conflict resolution in accordance with
54 international law, and fostering dialogue and understanding among all peoples. Let us harness the
55 collective voice and strength of trade unions to work together to build a future where peace prevails,
56 where the dignity and rights of every individual are respected, and where education serves as a beacon
57 of hope for generations to come.