



Promoting Public Sector Education in an Age of Austerity

Resolution on Tackling Extremism

Submitted for adoption by NASUWT (UK) to the ETUCE Conference, the Regional Conference of Education International, meeting in Budapest on 26-28 November 2012, adopted on 27 November 2012

The ETUCE Conference notes with concern that :

1. racial and religious intolerance and extremist ideologies across Europe are increasing;
2. schools and students are being targeted by extremists to promote racist and fascist propaganda;
3. research from the United Kingdom indicates that one in five teachers has witnessed evidence of organised racist activity within schools or their immediate vicinity;
4. extremists seek to portray ethnic and religious minorities, asylum seekers and refugees as the cause of economic malaise and increased social fragmentation;
5. the pursuit of economic austerity programmes in some countries has been accompanied by rising social tensions.

Recognises the

6. historical and contemporary correlation between the spread of racism, fascism and xenophobia, and the failure to tackle poverty and inequality;
7. value of ethnic and cultural diversity in Europe which has made a vital contribution to our economies and societies;
8. important role of teachers and other education personnel in improving life chances, tackling poverty and promoting progressive values;
9. important contribution made by education trade unions in challenging extremism in education institutions at all levels and within wider society, and the need for trade unions to be supported in this regard.

The Conference

- I. calls upon national governments and international agencies to assess the impact of their economic programmes on the fight against extremism, discrimination and inequality;
- II. commits the ETUCE to support and cooperate with Member organisations in their work to :



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- (i) inform and educate teachers and students of the problem of racism in schools, colleges and universities;
- (ii) collate information on the targeting of schools, colleges and universities by organised extremists;
- (iii) investigate the nature and extent of extremist activity within schools, colleges and universities, including statistical trends on the number of racial and religious motivated attacks therein;
- (iv) identify appropriate curricular and teaching strategies to combat racism and fascism;
- (v) publish and disseminate information and best practice.