

# Resolution

## **Fighting The Negative Impacts Of Non-independent Unions, Strengthened In Parallel To The Rising Far Right, On The Labor Struggle Of the Working Classes**

Submitted for Adoption by EGITIM-SEN (Turkey) to the ETUCE Conference, the Regional Conference of Education International, adopted on 26-27 November 2024

### **The ETUCE Conference notes:**

- Trade unions are structures established to protect the rights of workers, improve working conditions and criticize and struggle against anti-democratic, ultra-capitalist government policies. The independence of trade unions from employers and the government is a fundamental principle in the struggle to protect the rights of working people. Independent trade unions are obliged to look after the interests of workers and must be resistant to pressure from the government or employers.
- These are days of great crisis, especially seems the last decade, the deteriorating and deepening authoritarianism in the world and the corporatist capitalism that perceive everything within the framework of the interests of maximizing profits which has never ever experienced at this degree. As right-wing populist parties gain power and influence, they attack national and international laws supporting universal human rights and deepen their policies of exploitation and oppression. Parallel to rise of far right and extremism, right-wing trade unions that are in cahoots with right-wing governments are gaining strength as well. These trade unions support the anti-democratic, capitalist policies and practices of autocratic governments, and try to increase the legitimacy of these such sexist, discriminatory, racist, militarist policies and practices with labour exploitation, destruction of nature.
- The close ties of right-wing trade unions with employers leads to collective bargaining agreements that ignore, rather than guarantee decent salaries, pensions, working conditions and democratic rights and interests of teachers and education staff. These trade unions defend the interests of right-wing governments and employers rather than workers.

34 They also hinder the development of social policies and justice, making it difficult to protect  
35 the vested rights of the working classes. It aims to weaken the working class struggle by  
36 creating duality among workers through racist, sexist and discriminatory discourse,  
37 statements and publications.

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39 • Right-wing trade unions generally pursue pro-government policies, thus hindering  
40 independent trade union struggles and preventing trade unions from fulfilling their true  
41 representative duties.

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### 43 **The ETUCE conference asserts:**

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45 • Independent trade union struggles must be strengthened for a social order based on  
46 democracy and for a public, qualified, mother-tongue, gender-equal, secular, inclusive  
47 education system for all and for society.

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### 49 **The ETUCE Conference mandates ETUCE to:**

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51 • To support the struggles of genuine trade unions that are independent of the government  
52 and employers, based on the demands of education worker, and students with a critical  
53 stance.

54 • Taking a stand against right-wing trade unions that defend the interests of employers, right-  
55 wing and populist governments or right-wing political parties and their agenda, not those  
56 of working people.

57 • Over the next three years, in order to combat the attacks on the rights of education workers,  
58 students and parents and the attempts to disrupt the independent education trade union  
59 struggle, research and document the negative impact of the pro-government media, non-  
60 independent unions, and other mechanisms, which have gained strength with the growth  
61 of the far right, on the independent struggle of education trade unions and on the education  
62 system as a whole.

63 • To develop and carry out activities such as campaigns and educational work to discuss and  
64 develop strategies to respond to far right attacks of these mechanisms.

65 • Consider receiving funding from the European Commission to fund projects, research,  
66 documentation, campaigning and training.