European Trade Union Committee for Education

Education International - Europe | the trade union federation and social partner for education in Europe

Statement

on Ukraine

Adopted by the ETUCE Committee on 26 November 2025

Last week, the US government presented a draft peace plan to end the war in Ukraine. The Ukrainian government was not involved in the development of this plan, which was prepared jointly by the US and Russia. The 28 points of this peace plan, which are very favourable to Russia, include the cession of Ukrainian territories, restrictions on the Ukrainian army and its equipment, the impossibility for Ukraine to choose its alliances, and a general amnesty for actions and crimes carried out during the war. The peace plan must take into account the position of Ukraine and the European Union, and provide for unconditional compliance with international law. Geneva talks are a first step towards greater multilateralism and a more balanced peace plan, but many issues remain to be discussed in order to achieve a just and lasting peace.

Unwavering support for Ukraine, a country under attack, in its war with Russia, does not preclude criticism of its government's policies when they jeopardise the rights of its education workers. ETUCE opposes the conclusions of the Parliament Committee on Education, Science and Innovation to the Draft Law on the State Budget for 2026

In accordance with the ETUCE resolutions:

- 'Resolution for Peace in Ukraine' (2022)
- 'Protecting and Supporting Education in Times of War and Armed Conflict' (2024)
- 'Declaration on Peace' (2024)

In response to :

- Urgent call to action to stop legislative changes that threaten teachers copublished by EI and ETUCE on 25th November

The ETUCE Committee reaffirms:

- Its support for Ukraine, a country under attack, and condemns the invasion of its territory by the Russian Federation.
- Its commitment to peace and the protection of children and education personnel during armed conflicts.
- Its condemnation of the deportation of Ukrainian children.

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- Its mission to defend the rights of education workers throughout Europe.
- Teachers' unwavering commitment to defending democracy and their importance in building a just and lasting peace in the future.

The ETUCE Committee considers that:

- No just and lasting peace can exist without the involvement of all parties concerned in the entire peace process.
- Respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of States are fundamental elements of international security. Any change of borders by force is illegal.
- Those responsible for war crimes cannot benefit from amnesty. They must be tried and convicted by a competent court.
- The rights of educators must not be violated or narrowed under any circumstances, regardless of the dificult political and economic situation in the country or the martial law.
- The conclusions of the Parliamentary Committee on Education, Science and Innovation concerning the draft state budget bill for 2026 threaten the status of the teaching profession and violate international labour standards.

The ETUCE Committee calls for:

- A ceasefire and a just and lasting peace
- The withdrawal of Russian troops from the sovereign territory of Ukraine.
- Respect and protection of teacher’s rights and improvenent, not deterioration, of their working conditions, as this is a vital condition for ensuring quality education and the country’s recovery.
- The immediate return of deported Ukrainian children.
- The withdrawal of amendments that threaten the teaching profession.
- The implementation of the recommendations made by the United Nations High-Level Panel and the Santiago Consensus. Recommendations relayed in ETUCE’s Make Teaching Attractive and EI's Go Public campaigns to improve the status of teachers.