

World Teachers' Day 2023: Growing teacher shortage puts the right to education at risk

World Teachers' Day is celebrated on October 5th. This year's event is marked by increased concern about the scale and impact of the global teacher shortage.

BRUSSELS, BELGIUM, October 4, 2023 /EINPresswire.com/ -- According to UNESCO, the world



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David Edwards | Education International General Secretary

needs 69 million more teachers by 2030 to achieve universal basic education yet current trends see this deficit increasing, with many teachers leaving the profession. New research from Education International and partners points to the main factors driving this exodus and the solutions to turn the tide.

Overworked, undervalued, and underpaid

Convened by Education International, the global federation of education unions representing 32 million educators across 178 countries, UNESCO, the International Labour Organization, and UNICEF, the 2023 edition of World Teachers' Day highlights the global teacher shortage under

the theme "The teachers we need for the education we want: The global imperative to reverse the teacher shortage".

"Today, teachers are overworked, undervalued, and underpaid, and more and more are forced to leave the profession they love and the world needs. At the same time, fewer young people aspire to be teachers. It's easy to see why. Working conditions have deteriorated, pay has not kept up with inflation, workloads have skyrocketed, and professional autonomy has been steadily replaced with never-ending controls and bureaucracy. Urgent action is imperative because the right to quality education is at stake," explained David Edwards, Education International General Secretary.

The upcoming 2023 International Barometer of Education Staff sheds further light on the conditions driving teachers out of the profession. Based on a survey of over 26,000 educators including teachers, school principals, and support staff from 11 countries across 4 continents, the Barometer findings reveal a concerning rise of workplace violence, coupled with insufficient psychological and medical support for educators, and significant issues related to work-life

balance. A vast majority of educators surveyed reported that they didn't feel their profession was valued by society at large. The 2023 edition of the International Barometer of Education Staff will be released on October 10.

Teachers mobilise

Teachers everywhere are mobilising for change through Education International and its [Go Public! Fund Education](#) global campaign. The campaign emphasises the urgent need for governments to fully fund public education systems and invest in the teaching profession to end the teacher shortage and guarantee every student's right to have a well-supported qualified teacher and a quality learning environment.

The call has been echoed at the highest international level. In 2022, in the context of the Transforming Education Summit, the United Nations General Secretary drew the world's attention to the teacher shortage and the critical danger it poses. The [United Nations High-Level Panel on the Teaching Profession](#) was created to address this crisis and to put forward clear recommendations for governments to implement.

"To reverse the global teacher shortage, decisive political action is needed: it is imperative to fund public education, invest in teachers, guarantee their labour rights, and ensure they have good working conditions. Investing in education is not only about funding; it is about respecting, valuing pedagogical expertise, and involving teachers in decision-making processes," stressed Susan Hopgood, Education International President and member of the United Nations High-Level Panel on the Teaching Profession.

The High-Level Panel on the Teaching Profession has drafted over 50 recommendations that governments must implement in order to reverse the teacher shortage and ensure the right to quality education for all. The recommendations will be published by the United Nations in the next months, with follow-up work by UN agencies to encourage their implementation.

About Education International

Education International is the voice of teachers and education workers around the world. Through its 383 member organisations, Education International represents more than 32 million teachers and education support personnel in 178 countries and territories.

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