

The world's educators demand urgent action to tackle the global teacher shortage

UNESCO reports a global shortage of 44 million teachers to reach universal basic education by 2030.

BRUSSELS, BRUSSELS, BELGIUM, July 29, 2024 /EINPresswire.com/ -- Teachers around the world are overworked, underpaid, and undervalued. Deteriorating working conditions, low salaries, overwhelming workloads, and stifling bureaucracy are pushing teachers out of the profession they love and that the world needs.



The world's educators demand urgent action to tackle the global teacher shortage

This message is loud and clear as educators from around the world gather for the 10th World Congress of [Education International](#) (EI) in Buenos Aires, Argentina, from July 29th to August 2nd. This Congress brings together 1,200 delegates, from 150 countries representing 33 million education workers worldwide, to discuss critical challenges facing public education globally.

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*Education International's
General Secretary, David
Edwards*

From this global stage, teachers are sending a unified message to the world, demanding urgent action to tackle the teacher shortage crisis.

"The teacher shortage is a critical issue that affects us all. Without enough qualified teachers, we cannot provide the quality education that every student deserves and our societies desperately need," said Education International's General Secretary, David Edwards. "To reverse this trend, decisive political action is needed. It is imperative to increase public funding for public education and invest in teachers, guaranteeing their labor rights, and ensuring they have quality working conditions. It is also imperative to respect the profession, value teachers' pedagogical

expertise, and involve teachers in decision-making processes.”

Several factors contribute to the growing teacher shortage, including low salaries, increased workloads and inadequate working conditions. Half of all countries pay teachers less than other professions requiring similar qualifications. Furthermore, the majority of teachers in a global survey last year reported increased stress and burnout, a strong factor in their decision to leave the profession. With fewer young people seeing teaching as a viable career, and a global shortage of [44 million teachers](#) reported by UNESCO to reach universal basic education by 2030, the crisis is clear and present.

The urgency of this crisis has compelled action at the global level. The United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres convened a High-Level Panel on the Teaching Profession, composed of international experts and supported by the International Labour Organization and UNESCO. This year, the Panel issued a series of recommendations to address the teacher shortage, focusing on reversing precarious employment, reducing workload, and increasing salaries.

The recommendations include involving teachers in policy decisions, strengthening social dialogue, creating national commissions to improve working conditions and salaries, investing in teacher training and professional development, promoting equity and gender pay equity, and transitioning contract and unqualified teachers to permanent, qualified positions.

"Educators around the world are sounding the alarm on the teacher shortage crisis but are also presenting viable solutions. The High-Level Panel's recommendations support our demands and provide a clear path forward. We are ready to continue working to ensure the right to education for every child, advocating for governments to fully fund public education systems and invest in the teaching profession," concluded Education International's President, Susan Hopgood.

mar candela

EI

+32 483 10 72 47

[email us here](#)

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