

October 29, 2025

His Excellency Volodymyr Zelenskyy
President of Ukraine
11 Bankova vulytsia
Kyiv, Ukraine, 01220

Urgent Appeal: Education and Democracy are at the Heart of Ukraine's Reconstruction

Dear Mr. President,

As international unions representing millions of educators, we stand with the Trade Union of Education and Science Workers of Ukraine (TUESWU) in raising an urgent concern that reaches to the core of Ukraine's democratic future: strengthening the education profession.

Education is not only the foundation of every society, but also an indispensable bedrock of democracy. Teachers sustain civic life by preparing the next generation to participate in democratic institutions and restore trust in community. Without strong schools and empowered educators, Ukraine's long-term recovery and democratic renewal will be at risk.

Unions, and particularly education unions, are vital partners in this process. They embody principles of dialogue, fairness, and participation that are crucial to a resilient democracy. Respect for the profession, and empowering educators and their unions, are inseparable from strengthening Ukraine's democratic future.

Despite their courage and dedication under extraordinary circumstances, teachers remain among the lowest-paid professionals in Ukraine, while many other government and private sector employees -- with similar qualifications -- are compensated at significantly higher levels.

The effects are alarming. Teachers report feeling undervalued, and many leave the profession, or the country, to seek higher-paying positions; and young people are turning away from teaching altogether, creating long-lasting shortages that will affect Ukraine for generations.

As Ukraine looks to rebuild, teachers cannot be treated as an afterthought; without them, no country can be successful in rebuilding its economy, or strengthening its democratic civil society.

As long as educators remain under-recognized and undervalued, Ukraine risks a long-term exodus of the brightest from the profession. We urge that you invest

AFT, AFL-CIO

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AFT PSRP
AFT Higher Education
AFT Public Employees
AFT Nurses and Health
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AFT Retirees

555 New Jersey Ave. N.W.
Washington, DC 20001
202-879-4400
www.aft.org

Randi Weingarten
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Fedrick C. Ingram
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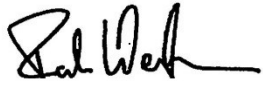
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in teachers today, and recognize education unions as essential partners in renewing a strong, democratic Ukraine.

With respect and solidarity,



Randi Weingarten

American Federation of Teachers (AFT), President



Wayne Broom

NASUWT The Teachers' Union, President



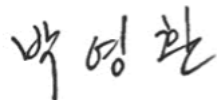
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Georgiy Trukhanov

Trade Union of Education and Science Workers of Ukraine, President

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cc: Her Excellency Yulia Svyrydenko, Prime Minister of Ukraine
His Excellency Oksen Lisovyi, Minister of Education and Science of Ukraine