



Brussels, 25 September 2026

TO ALL MEMBER ORGANISATIONS

World Teachers' Day 2026 - Standing with Teachers: 60 Years of Protecting the Profession, Advancing its Status, and Shaping Our Futures

Dear colleagues,

On **5 October 2026**, education unions around the world will celebrate **World Teachers' Day**, marking the **60th anniversary of the 1966 ILO/UNESCO Recommendation concerning the Status of Teachers**.

This important milestone offers a unique opportunity to celebrate the teaching profession while renewing our collective commitment to the rights, status, professional autonomy, working conditions, and wellbeing of teachers worldwide.

The theme this year is **Standing with Teachers: 60 Years of Protecting the Profession, Advancing its Status, and Shaping Our Futures**.

As teacher shortages worsen, public education systems come under increasing pressure, and educators face growing professional and societal challenges, World Teachers' Day 2026 provides a timely moment to advocate for the policies and investments needed to strengthen the profession and guarantee every learner's right to quality education.

The 1966 Recommendation remains the most important international framework defining the rights and responsibilities of teachers and establishing standards relating to:

- Initial and continuing teacher education
- Professional autonomy
- Working conditions
- Salaries and employment security
- Teacher participation in education policy
- Social dialogue and collective bargaining

Sixty years later, its vision remains unfulfilled.

Around the world, teachers continue to face excessive workloads, insufficient salaries, growing administrative burdens, attacks on academic freedom and professional autonomy, and worsening teacher shortages. At the same time, teachers are helping learners navigate the impacts of conflict, inequality, climate change, technological transformation, and democratic challenges.

World Teachers' Day 2026 is an opportunity to call on governments to fully implement the principles of the 1966 Recommendation and ensure teaching is a respected, attractive, and sustainable profession.

Advancing teacher status requires gender justice

This year's World Teachers' Day should also shine a spotlight on a fundamental reality: **women are the majority of the teaching profession globally.**

Women educators are the backbone of education systems. Yet many continue to experience discrimination, violence and harassment, low salaries, unequal access to leadership positions, and barriers to career progression.

Following the discussions and [commitments](#) emerging from Education International's World Women's Conference, we encourage member organisations to incorporate gender equality and women's leadership into their World Teachers' Day activities, messaging, and advocacy efforts.

Global event at UNESCO

Education International will join our partners at **UNESCO**, the **International Labour Organization (ILO)**, and other education stakeholders in the official global celebration of World Teachers' Day at UNESCO Headquarters in Paris.

The event will commemorate the 60th anniversary of the Recommendation, highlight the critical importance of strengthening teacher status, and provide a platform for discussions on the future of the profession.

We encourage affiliates to use our communications toolkit to amplify our messages and highlight the theme. [You will find it here.](#)

If you would like the World Teachers' Day poster translated into your language please contact Frederik Destree at Frederik.Destree@ei-ie.org. You can see if your language is already available by [clicking here](#).

We encourage you to share information, photos, videos, and reports from your World Teachers' Day activities with us so that we can highlight actions from around the world and showcase the collective strength of our movement.

Together, let us use World Teachers' Day 2026 to celebrate teachers, honour sixty years of progress, champion gender justice, and demand the investments and policies needed to strengthen the profession for generations to come.

In solidarity,



David Edwards
General Secretary