



Latvian Trade Union of Education and Science Employees

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To: Christine Blower, President, European Trade Union Committee of Education (ETUCE),
Susan Flocken, European Director, European Trade Union Committee of Education
(ETUCE),

David Edwards, General Secretary, Education International (EI)

Riga, 28 August 2020

Latvian Trade Union of Education and Science Employees (LIZDA) Statement on the teachers' situation in Belarus

On August 25, 2020, Latvia's population has been informed through media about violation against Bielorussian teachers – Alexander Lukashenko and Bielorussian authorities have promised to dismiss from job all teachers who aren't going to support the current ideology. As we know, many teachers, education employees were taking part in election commissions, and many of them have refused to sign the falsified ballot papers. Latvian society is informed that during this week, a large number of teachers and their supporters were gathering in front of the Ministry of Education in Belarus, Minsk, protesting against permissiveness and violence against teachers.

LIZDA, uniting more than 22 000 education and science employees all over Latvia, strongly denounces the violence used by the Bielorussian authorities towards the peaceful protesters across the country, including arrests and detention of citizens. Along with the European Trade Union Committee of Education (ETUCE) and its other member organisations (ETUCE Statement on the situation in Belarus issued in Brussels, August 20, 2020) LIZDA expresses its firm solidarity with the Belarus teachers and wish them strength and courage in their demands for change and a democratic society. LIZDA calls on the Bielorussian authorities to immediately stop any threats of job loss and violence against teachers, and proceed against officials responsible for repression against peaceful demonstrators. LIZDA insists that the Bielorussian authorities should engage in meaningful dialogue with the opposition in order to launch a new electoral process.

LIZDA expresses its firm solidarity with the teachers and people of Belarus and the Belarus Trade Union of Education and Science Workers. LIZDA fully supports ETUCE intention to address international organizations - the Council of Europe, the United Nations and the

International Labour Organization to do their utmost and take serious steps to favour a democratic process and strong civil society movement, involving the trade union movement.

Yours sincerely,

President

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Inga Vanaga', written in a cursive style.

Inga Vanaga

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