



Resolution

Peace Resolution on Ukraine

Adopted by the ETUCE Special Conference, the Regional Special Conference of Education International, on 5-6 July 2022

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Further to and consistent with the Resolutions adopted by the [8th EI Congress](#) in Bangkok in 2019, the [Resolutions](#) adopted by the ETUCE Conference in 2020 and the ETUCE Extraordinary Conference in 2021, this ETUCE Special Conference

Notes with concern:

1. A full-scale military invasion by the Russian Federation on the sovereign state of Ukraine, that started on the 24 February 2022, has led to one of the biggest humanitarian crises in Europe since World War II, costing thousands of lives, wounding thousands, and displacing millions of people. The unjustified war has broken millions of families apart, traumatised people of all ages, disrupted the education of young people and children, and the lifelong learning pathways of Ukrainian citizens and others, and destroyed homes and futures.
2. The war has had catastrophic consequences for the whole of Ukraine's economy, including for the education sector, with educational institutions and facilities destroyed, social services disrupted, and social welfare stretched to breaking point. Even if a peaceful resolution is reached, it will take years to reconstruct the economy, the basic infrastructures, and also the education system.
3. Following Russia's attack on Ukraine, Europe faces an enormous wave of refugees. As war escalates, it is likely that millions more will be forced to flee Ukraine and seek refuge across borders, joining what is already a record 31 million refugees and asylum seekers worldwide. Most of the displaced persons leaving Ukraine and seeking refuge elsewhere, are crossing into EU and other neighbouring countries such as Poland, Romania, Moldova, Slovakia and Hungary. Some are finding their way further into the EU, continuing their journey to other countries. The arrival of millions of refugees, mostly women and children, many unaccompanied, represents a great challenge for education systems and societies across the European region, which are already struggling with the impact of the pandemic and its economic consequences.
4. There are reported cases of discrimination and racism towards some refugees crossing borders to certain EU countries where for example, refugees of colour (often students), LGBTI

37 persons, nationals of certain countries fleeing political persecutions, and other groups are
38 refused entry.

39 5. It should not be underestimated that all children in Europe are impacted by the news on the
40 war especially as they experience its direct consequences on Ukrainian children who are
41 suffering from the war and who they meet in their classrooms

42 6. There have been phenomenal efforts on the part of our member organisations, including our
43 Ukrainian members, in supporting refugees and the children of refugees to cope with the
44 trauma of war. These efforts should be made on a strategic long-term basis.

45 7. The atrocities and barbaric actions perpetrated by Russian soldiers against Ukrainian people,
46 show a total absence of respect for human rights and the dignity of every individual, and
47 reflect the lack of democratic principles in the Russian leadership.

48 8. The situation of education in the territories temporarily occupied by Russia is difficult. Local
49 sources report that citizens and children are prohibited to leave the occupied territories and
50 access Ukrainian education institutions. There are also reports about forced removal of
51 Ukrainian children to Russia and confiscation of Ukrainian history and literature books from
52 libraries.

53 **ETUCE member organisations continue to stand in solidarity with the**
54 **education personnel, students, education trade unions and people of Ukraine**
55 **and call for:**

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57 1. Immediate cessation of military operations, withdrawal of all Russian troops from
58 Ukraine, a peaceful resolution of the conflict built on dialogue, respect for the Ukrainian
59 territorial integrity, respect for human rights and tolerance.

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61 2. Condemnation of Russia’s invasion of the sovereign and independent territory of Ukraine by
62 international community. ETUCE is clear in its condemnation of any support for the Russian
63 invasion of Ukraine.

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65 3. Preservation of the values of education and peace, recognising the central role of education
66 trade unions in the promotion of peace and democracy;

67 4. Provision of humanitarian and all other kinds of support to Ukraine and its population to
68 restore the socio-economic structure, including the education system, and the
69 implementation of all necessary measures to protect and assist those fleeing their country
70 due to the war, considering the specific risks for elderly, women and children (including
71 unaccompanied minors) refugees;

72 5. The support for teachers, academics and all educational personnel who speak out for peace
73 and against the war against Ukraine in their countries and are therefore subject to repression.

74 6. The welcoming of all refugees and people fleeing from Ukraine and other countries regardless
75 of nationality, race, ethnicity, religion or any other background, ensuring that all migrant

- 76 children and young people are included in quality inclusive education and provided with all
77 necessary supports in response to their needs, e.g. linguistic, psychological, cultural etc.;
- 78 7. Ensuring the access of refugees and migrants as well as their families to the labour market and
79 social support systems in the host countries, including the accreditation and recognition of
80 the qualifications of refugee teachers, academics, researchers, and other education
81 personnel, as well the provision of fast-track programmes and necessary continuous
82 professional development with a view to qualifying them to work in the education systems of
83 their host countries as quickly as possible;
- 84 8. Provision of significant investments in education to support and equip teachers and other
85 education personnel as they work to address the diverse needs of migrant students and to
86 promote inclusion, diversity and intercultural dialogue in educational institutions across
87 Europe;
- 88 9. Ensuring that education in all European countries further contributes to the peacebuilding
89 processes and prevention of different types of conflicts through the implementation of peace
90 education and democratic citizenship education, building on principles of inclusiveness,
91 tolerance, intercultural dialogue, human rights, equity, and non-discrimination, as well as
92 developing critical thinking and social responsibility;
- 93 10. Ensuring that peace education and democratic citizenship education is implemented in every
94 European education system from an early age and that teachers and other education
95 personnel are properly prepared and supported with knowledge and skills in order to be able
96 to transmit values of peace, mutual respect, understanding and tolerance.
- 97 11. Strong collaboration, cooperation and social dialogue between education trade unions,
98 governments at all levels, education personnel and families as a precondition for establishing
99 peace in the minds of people and society as a whole;
- 100 12. A reaffirmation of the fundamental values of ETUCE and its member organisation in the face
101 of conflict situations in our belief in the dignity of individuals, the right to live in peace, the
102 continued need to campaign for human rights and in particular the right of children to an
103 education and to hope in the future.