



Education International
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Education International stands in solidarity with National Teachers Association of Taiwan – May Day for All

Education International stands in solidarity and in support of the National Teachers Association of Taiwan, as the representative of more than 610,000 public school teachers and civil servants, in its continuous fight to recognise and ratify 1st of May as the National Holiday for all working men and women in Taiwan.

On International Workers' Day, or popularly known in many parts of the world as Labour Day or May Day in Taiwan, we celebrate and pay homage to those workers, men, and women, who have contributed for more than a century to social justice and to building a better world.

May Day is more than just a mere holiday. It is about recognising past achievements and planning for the future. It is also about guaranteeing equal rights for all citizens and for all workers. Teachers and other public employees should be covered by the same or equivalent legal provisions and social protections.

Teachers and other workers have the right to have a dedicated seat at the negotiation table through their trade unions to achieve collective bargaining agreements. Governments should promote, not deny, these fundamental rights and freedoms of workers.

The COVID-19 pandemic has shown that workers in the public and private sectors are impacted equally hard, yet the rights and remunerations enjoyed are different. In this pandemic, teachers and healthcare workers ARE and WILL BE frontline workers who strive to protect the future of Taiwan. Women and men, young or old, persons with disabilities and other difficulties, should be treated with fairness and given equal rights and protections without any discrimination.

Education International, as the global voice of 32 million teachers and education support personnel in over 170 countries and territories around the world, calls on the government of Taiwan to recognise and ratify 1st of May/ May Day as workers' day, and as such as a public holiday.

Teachers, like many others in public service, devote their lives to making this planet a better place to live and work. That may make them different, but human rights are inter-related and indivisible. Teachers and other public sector workers should never be distinguished from other workers in being denied the exercise of their human rights.

In solidarity,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'David Edwards'.

David Edwards
General Secretary