

Fédération Nationale de l'Enseignement, de la Culture et de la Formation Professionnelle, de la Confédération Générale du Travail - Force Ouvrière 6/8, rue Gaston Lauriau – 93513 MONTREUIL CEDEX Tél. : 01 56 93 22 22 – Fax : 01 56 93 22 20 - email : fneconf@fo-fneconf.fr
Confédération Générale du Travail FORCE OUVRIERE

Themis Kotsifakis president ,
Stamatis Nikolaou , Secretary General
OLME
E-mail: olme@otenet.gr, interolme@yahoo.gr
Montreuil, 11 September 2013

Dear colleagues, dear friends

The FNEC FP FO gives you all its support for the strike decided by your general assemblies and starting on the 16th september as well as for your claims.

Of course, we 'll also give you a financial support ; our federal secretary will discuss about this next monday.

We'll communicate the reasons of your strike to our unions and their members and report on the dramatic situation imposed on you by your government and the Troika drive you. Our members are all aware of the threats pending on the colleagues and especially Themis.

Our own government also want to attack our statutes, our wages, and our pension system, in the name of decisions taken in the frame of European Treaties and of the Troika directives. We do not accept this.

Yesterday, September 10, our confederation Force Ouvrière called workers from both public and private sectors to strike and demonstrate on september 10th, with CGT, FSU and Solidaires, in particular against the new reform in pensions and the lengthening of the work period to 43 years to get a full pension. For teachers, this would mean working until 67, 68, or 69, which is impossible.

More than ever, we have to say stop the austerity! stop all plans and measures against wages, jobs, social protection, public teaching and all public services!

We wish you all success in your fight.

Best regards,

Hubert Raguin, secrétaire général

Jacques Paris, secrétaire fédéral chargé du secteur international

Dear OLME-GREEK FEDERATION OF SECONDARY EDUCATION STATE
SCHOOL TEACHERS,

I just signed Joanne Landy's petition "[Support Teachers and Other Striking Workers in Greece!](#)" on Change.org.

We Stand in Solidarity with Striking Teachers and Other Public Employees in Greece
Statement by AKNY-Greece Solidarity Movement (Web: <http://www.akny.org/> and on Facebook) and Syriza-New York (on Facebook) September 17, 2013 We stand in solidarity with OLME, the secondary education teachers union in Greece, which has launched a five-day rolling strike as of September 16th, following the decision of the teachers' general assemblies. At the end of each five-day strike the teachers' general assemblies will take stock of the situation and then decide on the course of the strike action. Teachers here in the United States face a similar assault, with teacher layoffs, school closings, and relentless testing of students which serves to justify attacks on teachers rather than actually supporting and improving education. In addition, we stand in solidarity with the many other public employees in Greece who are also going on strike to resist brutal government-imposed austerity measures, including staff at the social insurance funds, the state employment agency and labor ministry, and hospital workers. The situation in public schools in Greece is dramatic. The "Troika" (the European Commission, the International Monetary Fund, and the European Central Bank) and the cooperating Greek government of Samaras (New Democracy) and Venizelos (PASOK), using the economic crisis as a pretext, and without any communication with the interested parties, have taken a series of harsh measures such as • 20% reduction of the number of teachers in secondary education since June 2013. • Closing down of 102 Vocational Education Schools • Suspension and possible dismissal of 2,500 Vocational Education Teachers • 47% reduction of spending on education by 2016 compared to 2008 • compulsory transfer of 5,000 teachers to primary education and administration posts These measures aim at privatizing part of vocational education, introducing apprenticeship as a form of minor/under-age employment replacing education process and at establishing a harsh, examination-centered system in all forms/grades of upper secondary education, forcing students to seek private tuition outside school and leading to school dropouts. We support the striking teachers in Greece and demand that public education not be sacrificed to comply with the wishes of the "Troika." The Greek teachers and the Greek people do not stand alone in this struggle. This struggle is not just for public education but also for workers dignity, civil rights and liberty and true democracy itself here in the United States and around the world. NOTE: OLME intends to create a Solidarity Fund to support teachers in strike. You can contact OLME (@OLMEGR) at the details below: OLME-GREEK FEDERATION OF SECONDARY EDUCATION STATE SCHOOL TEACHERS 2, Kornarou & Ermou Str. Athens (10563), GREECE Tel: 0030 210 3230073-3221255 Fax: 0030 210 3311338-3227382 www.olme.gr E-mail: olme@otenet.gr, and interolme@yahoo.gr

Sincerely,
Joanne Landy New York, New York

odile Cordelier
Roger Ferrari
SNES-FSU

Paris, September 13th, 2013

To Themis KOTSIFAKIS, President of OLME
To Stamatis NIKOLAOU, General Secretary of OLME

Dear Friends,

On behalf of SNES-FSU, we are expressing both our solidarity and support for the strike actions starting next week. All the harsh measures that are attacking public education in Greece are undermining the core values of education as a free public service. It is very clear that the education public sector in your country is the target both for the government and the Troïka.

We support all your actions to protest against reduced wages, compulsory transfers to another teaching post and dismissals.

We have noticed that you intend to create a solidarity fund : please let us know more about your expectations in terms of support.

Best regards.

Odile Cordelier
SNES-FSU

Roger Ferrari
SNES-FSU

Solidarité Grèce

Le SNES-FSU réaffirme son soutien et sa solidarité au peuple grec, en particulier aux enseignants qui se battent contre de nouvelles attaques du gouvernement sur injonction de la troïka (Commission Européenne, FMI et BCE) : suppressions massives de postes, mise à pied avant licenciement, transferts forcés sur des postes du premier degré, baisse des salaires et fermeture de lycées professionnels.

OLME, le syndicat du second degré, s'est adressé à toutes les organisations affiliées au Comité Syndical Européen de l'Education pour faire part de son intention de mettre en place un fonds de solidarité. Le SNES-FSU étudiera favorablement toute demande de contribution à ce fonds.

Pour : 79 Contre : 0 Abstentions : 0 NPPV : 0

Gewerkschaft Erziehung und Wissenschaft Hauptvorstand



President

OLME
Themis Kotsifakis, President
2, Ermou and Kornarou Street

GR-Athens 0563

13 September 2013
MT/mb/kg

Solidarity with OLME's Strike in Greece Next Week

Dear Themis,
Dear Themis
dear colleagues from OLME,

With this letter we would like to express our solidarity with your teachers' strike as of September 16 and your struggle to preserve public schools and vocational education in Greece. The policy of the Greek government and the Troika of ECB, the European Commission and IMF is wrong. The ongoing austerity measures are destroying the society and the quality of public education in your country. Discount education cannot be the solution for the current crisis in Greece.

Quality education should be considered as your government's most important tool to overcome the economic crisis and to secure a sustainable future. Instead of further cuts in education budgets, Greece and Europe need more investment in education. Therefore, the GEW, together with the German Trade Union Federation (DGB), demand a European Marshall-Plan in order to promote training and education and modernize and expand public and private infrastructure in Europe.

Vocational education is of particular importance for both individual professional development and the economic development of a society. The closing down of more than 100 public vocational education schools and the privatization of vocational education in Greece will lead to a decrease of quality in vocational training and profession. The Greek government must withdraw these decisions and abandon its efforts to dismiss thousands of teachers from the vocational education sector.

As chairperson of the German Education Union (GEW) I wish you all the strength you need in this struggle and large attendance in your strike activities next week.

Sincerely,
Marlis Tepe

Marlis Tepe

COMMUNIQUE DE PRESSE

CGT Educ'action - 263 rue de Paris - case 549 - 93515 MONTREUIL
cedex

Mel : unsen@ferc.cgt.fr - Site : www.unsen.cgt.fr

Contact Presse : Matthieu Brabant - 06 77 81 34 83

La CGT Educ'action soutient la lutte des enseignants grecs

Lundi 17 septembre 2013, a démarré en Grèce une grève reconductible massive dans l'Éducation, le

taux de participation moyen de grévistes a été de 95 %.

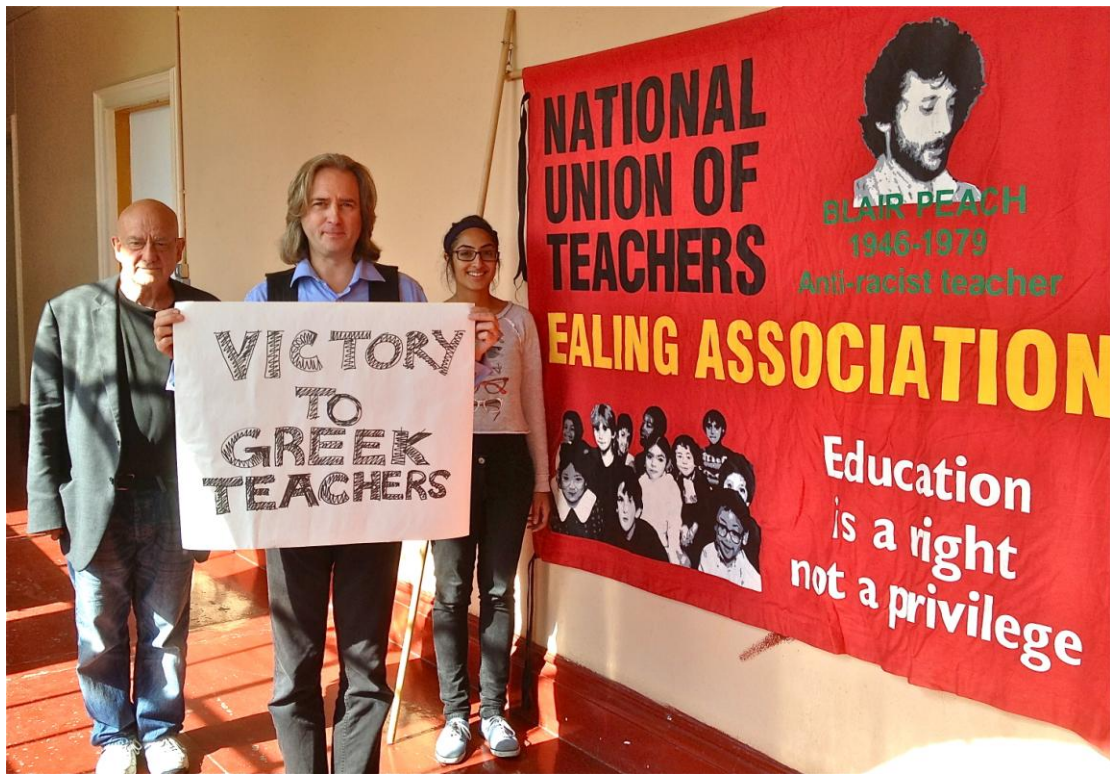
Les enseignants grecs ont lancé une lutte *"contre la politique d'austérité et les licenciements qui*

attaquent les droits au travail des enseignants et l'égalité à l'éducation".

La CGT Educ'action exprime sa totale solidarité aux enseignants grecs et aux syndicats

enseignants grecs dans cette lutte.

Montreuil, le 18 septembre 2013



Dear comrades

Ealing National Union of Teachers' branch sends solidarity greetings for your strike actions against austerity.

Please let us know if we can do anything else to help you win!

Best wishes

Nick Grant

Chers confrères,

La FSU 93 (fédération syndicale unitaire du département de Seine-Saint-Denis -France) qui regroupe les principaux syndicats d'enseignants dans les écoles, collèges, lycées, apporte tout son soutien à la lutte des enseignants grecs.

Nous saluons avec solidarité la détermination dont les enseignants grecs font la démonstration.

Soyez assurés de notre attachement aux services publics d'éducation en Europe.

Le secrétaire général de la FSU 93
François COCHAIN

Solidarity greetings from teachers in Islington, London, to our comrades in Greece.

Your courageous strike action in defence of education is an inspiration to all of us.

The workers united will never be defeated.

Ken Muller
Assistant Secretary
Islington Branch
National Union of Teachers

Union Générale des Fédérations de Fonctionnaires CGT

Montreuil, le 18 septembre 2013

L'UGFF-CGT SOLIDAIRE DES TRAVAILLEURS GRECS

En Grèce, les fonctionnaires ont entamé une grève reconductible. Cette action de grande envergure est menée pour dénoncer et combattre

la politique d'austérité.

Les camarades et collègues entendent aussi, de cette façon, lutter contre

les licenciements et les attaques de leurs droits qu'ils subissent depuis de

nombreuses années.

La question du licenciement de fonctionnaires est particulièrement sensible dans un pays touché de plein fouet par la crise.

Ce mouvement de grève, organisé à l'appel du principal syndicat de fonctionnaires, Adedy, intervient quelques jours avant la venue à Athènes

de la « troïka » (Commission européenne, Banque centrale européenne et

Fonds monétaire international) qui doit faire le bilan des réformes engagées dans le pays.

La colère est grande et la détermination des travailleurs sans faille puisque le taux de participation de ces premiers jours de grève est aux alentours de 95 % dans l'Education Nationale.

La pauvreté n'a cessé de s'accroître avec la récession depuis six ans.

La politique imposée par la troïka doit cesser, la riposte doit être à la

hauteur des enjeux.

La solidarité internationale est un levier incontournable pour changer la

donne et stopper la casse des services publics.

L'UGFF-CGT tient à assurer à tous les personnels en lutte de son entière solidarité.

L'UGFF-CGT continuera à participer activement à toutes les initiatives et actions syndicales Européennes et Internationales pour dénoncer les politiques d'austérité ultra libérales.

Όρθιοι αδέρφια!

Please accept this message of support from the teachers of London.

Internationally, we face a neoliberal assault on our jobs, pay and conditions - as the means to cut and privatise education and to steal away the hopes and prospects for the next generation.

Stand firm, build and extend the action!

In solidarity

Martin Powell-Davies

Member of the NUT National Executive for Inner London, UK

Martin Powell-Davies

<http://electmartin1.blogspot.com/>

Dear Colleagues,

I am writing to send you solidarity from Bury in England. I was most inspired by the video I saw on the Teacher Solidarity website, on which Greek teachers explained why they are on strike. The neoliberal attack on education is global. Your fight is our fight.

In solidarity,

Roy Wilkes

School Representative of the National Union of Teachers, Prestwich Arts College, Bury, England.=

Dear Colleagues,

Congratulations for the excellent video and for the high participation of Greek teachers in the strike launched by OLME. We surely identify ourselves with your fight and with the reasons of the strike.

We express our deepest solidarity and wish you a very successful fight.

Manuela Mendonça

FENPROF - PORTUGAL



SECRETARÍA NACIONAL DE EXTERIORES Y RELACIONES INTERNACIONALES

Dear colleagues,

On behalf of the president of CSI-F (Independent Union for Education in Spain), Mr. Adrián Vivas and of myself

I would like to express our deepest solidarity with the Greek teachers and Unionists for suffering such unbearable situation.

As far as the situation of Education in Spain is quite difficult these days, we can easily understand your fight against the Administration.

Receive our friendly support.

Kindest regards,

**Antonia Paredes
Sánchez**

NATIONAL
FOREIGN
SECRETARY
AND
INTERNATIONAL
RELATIONS
CSI-F UNION
FOR
EDUCATION
SPAIN

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To Themistocles KOTSIFAKIS
President of OLME
To Nicholas STAMATIS

General Secretary of OLME
19-09-2013 No. 2.7.-096

Dear colleagues,
The members of LEETU (primary, secondary, vocational education, nursery teachers, high and higher school lecturers and other employees working in education) are supporting Greek teachers in strike. We are with you in our minds!
We hope that your struggle against the government-troika is successful and you will stop destroying public schools in Greece.

You can count on our support and we wish you success in your struggle!

Yours in solidarity,

Chairman of Lithuanian Education Employees Trade Union, LEETU
Andrius Navickas

NATIONAL UNION OF TEACHERS
HEADQUARTERS
Hamilton House Mabledon Place London WC1H 9BD
Telephone 020 7388 6191 Fax 020 7387 8458
www.teachers.org.uk
General Secretary Christine Blower

Statement on Greece
National Union of Teachers (NUT) stands in solidarity
with the Greek teachers

The NUT expresses grave concern over dramatic developments in Greece. As we understand, over 2,500 vocational education teachers are being suspended, 102 vocational schools are closing down and 5,000 teachers are being forcefully transferred to primary education or administrative posts. By 2016, education spending will have been cut by 47 per cent.

At present the Greek Federation of Secondary Education State School Teachers (OLME) is engaged in a five-day rolling strike. The NUT calls on the government of Greece to heed the concerns of Greek teachers and listen to their demands. Furthermore, teacher dismissals are undermining the position of elected officers in the trade union, notably Themis Kotsifakis, the president of OLME. The NUT condemns all efforts to threaten the activities of this organisation. The NUT is concerned about the lack of respect for social dialogue in Greece and demands that teachers are protected from unjustified dismissals. The NUT is deeply concerned about drastic reductions in the number of teachers. There are 16,000 fewer teachers in secondary education, this is a 20% reduction since June 2013. The NUT calls on the government of Greece to improve social dialogue in the education sector. At present, provisions are passed without proper consultation with social partners.

The NUT protests also against the surge in privatisation in vocational education in Greece and reminds the government of Greece that free, high quality public education with equal access is the most effective path towards a prosperous society.

Yours sincerely
CHRISTINE BLOWER
General Secretary

Chères camarades, chers camarades,

La CGT Educ'action de Haute-Normandie apporte son fraternel soutien aux travailleurs de l'Education en lutte en Grèce.

Nous soutenons votre grève contre les politiques d'austérité et de licenciements.

Fraternellement

Amaury Verron
secrétaire

régional

Dear colleagues!

Estonian Education Personnel Union (EEMU) and the entire Estonian faculty are with you in your fight!

We support your strike and fight against massive school closures and teacher suspensions.

Wishing you all the best,

Reemo Voltri
President of EEMU



greesolidarity.org/

SOLIDARITY WITH THE SCHOOL AND UNIVERSITY TEACHERS OF GREECE!

Greece Solidarity Campaign stands foursquare behind the actions launched by university and school teachers in Greece to stand up for education and employees rights.

We will do everything we can to spread a broader understanding of the issues in your struggle and evoke moral and practical support.

We note that:

- Teacher numbers in Greek state secondary education have been drastically reduced and will continue to fall
- 102 Vocational Education Schools are closing and 2,500 Vocational Education teachers are to be suspended as a step towards dismissal
- The cuts in educational spending are to reach 47% by 2016
- 5,000 teachers are to be compulsorily re-deployed to primary education and administrative posts
- New legislation affecting education has been imposed without dialogue which imposes a harsh, exam-centred regime throughout upper secondary education, forcing students to seek private tuition and leading to school dropouts
- Vocational education is to be part-privatised and a proper vocational training is to be replaced as a way of exploiting the labour of underage workers
- OLME's membership has voted massively at mass meetings for a rolling series of 5-day strike actions to be reviewed by the membership at the end of each episode
- OLME is to launch a Solidarity Fund and is requesting support

GSC further notes the September 6 “Open Letter to Parents and Staff” of professors and employees of the National Technical University in Athens. The government has:

- Declared the intention to suspend 550 administrative staff (65% of the total)
- To reduce the active teaching staff by nearly half, having already slashed funds for classes, buildings and libraries.
- Frozen new teaching appointments over several years while staff numbers haemorrhage due to retirement
- Impounded euros 30 million attracted by the University for various purposes from other sources.
- Meanwhile increased the student intake!
- The resources and quality of teaching and learning at the University, particularly in the field of IT and new technologies, will be devastated.

As the “Open Letter” says:

“Briefly, the National Technical University of Athens is being pushed into becoming a postsecondary training institution, a vocational training institution, with easy and fast-to-get certificates, for a future of certain unemployment, with a few impoverished

workers and professors who will not care about how to teach but only about how to survive. Then you will be asked to pay tuition fees.”

We further note that the professors and employees of the National Technical University of Athens have decided to “stand up with our heads high, instead of remaining idle and hopeless”, and to continue the University’s shining tradition, steeled under Nazi occupation and the struggles against the Colonels’ dictatorship.

Greece Solidarity Campaign declares its full support of OLME and the staff at National Technical University. We will do everything we can to spread news about your struggles among trade unions, working people and the population at large in the UK and to organise moral and material support for you.

September 23, 2013

Dear Friends at OLME (Greek Federation of Secondary Education State School Teachers),

We wrote you a few days ago to tell you that we had collected 596 signatures from supporters of your strike in the United States and other countries. Since that time, the list has grown to 828 signatories. The complete and current list of signers is below, and is also attached.

As you will see, Noam Chomsky, Ariel Dorfman, Silvia Federici, Barbara Garson, Dan Georgakas, Bruce Robbins, and Azadeh Shahshahani are among the signatories, as well as the Executive Board of the American Federation of Teachers, Local 3220. The majority of the signers are from the United States and many are from Greece, but signatures have also come from a number of other countries including Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bahrain, Belgium, Canada, Colombia, Cyprus, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Egypt, France, Germany, India, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Malta, Netherlands, New Zealand, Poland, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, and the United Kingdom (some new countries have been added since I wrote you a few days ago.)

Again, we wish you the greatest success in your critical struggle!

In solidarity,

Joanne

Joanne Landy

New York City

**We Stand in Solidarity with Striking Teachers
and Other Public Employees in Greece
Statement by AKNY-Greece Solidarity Movement
(Web: <http://www.akny.org/> and on Facebook).
and Syriza-New York (Web: <http://www.syriza-ny.org/> and on
Facebook)**

September 17, 2013

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In addition, we stand in solidarity with the many other public employees in Greece who are also going on strike to resist brutal government-imposed austerity measures,

including staff at the social insurance funds, the state employment agency and labor ministry, and hospital workers.

The situation in public schools in Greece is dramatic. The “Troika” (the European Commission, the International Monetary Fund, and the European Central Bank) and the cooperating Greek government of Samaras (New Democracy) and Venizelos (PASOK), using the economic crisis as a pretext, and without any communication with the interested parties, have taken a series of harsh measures such as

- 20% reduction of the number of teachers in secondary education since June 2013.
- Closing down of 102 Vocational Education Schools
- Suspension and possible dismissal of 2,500 Vocational Education Teachers
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These measures aim at privatizing part of vocational education, introducing apprenticeship as a form of minor/under-age employment replacing education process and at establishing a harsh, examination-centered system in all forms/grades of upper secondary education, forcing students to seek private tuition outside school and leading to school dropouts.

We support the striking teachers in Greece and demand that public education not be sacrificed to comply with the wishes of the “Troika.” The Greek teachers and the Greek people do not stand alone in this struggle. This struggle is not just for public education but also for workers dignity, civil rights and liberty and true democracy itself here in the United States and around the world.