

Rome, March 25, 2025
Prot. n. 88/2025 GF/GP-stm

Dear Comrades, dear friends,

in relation the arrest of the mayor of Istanbul, Ekrem İmamoğlu, and the following protests erupted in the city, the FLC CGIL expresses solidarity to Eğitim Sen who, together with hundreds of thousands of students and citizens, is in the streets these days to defend the rule of law, human rights and trade union rights, too often trampled upon, in Turkey and elsewhere. We are particularly concerned about the investigation against Eğitim Sen due to the proclamation of a one-day strike in the universities to support the university students who join the protests. We stand with Eğitim Sen in defense of freedom of expression and freedom to protest peacefully within and outside universities.

We know that your commitment has often been censored by the State, including with the loss of your personal freedom. Yet we do know that you are not willing to give up the battle against inequality in Turkey, the worsening of living and working conditions, the growing poverty of many and the enrichment of a few. We stand with you!

The FLC CGIL, together with Eğitim Sen, are organizations involved in Education International's campaigns and together we fight to counter a further rise of right-wing populism, autocratic regimes and anti-democratic alliances around the world. The global rise of the far right is a major threat to democracy and a particular threat to trade unions. In this context, it is necessary to oppose all anti-union legislation and all actions by governments aimed at weakening and removing the right to protest.

The friendship between our federations is consolidated in the common struggle for rights and democracy.

You have our international solidarity to strengthen the rights of citizenship, where fairness and inclusiveness must go hand in hand with the exercise of free democratic expression by citizens, students and workers.

Long live international trade unionism!

Solidarity greetings!

The General Secretary
Gianna Fracassi

