



Brussels, 17/04/2026

Ref. JE/tb/10425

TO:

Mr. Yusuf Tekin, Minister of National Education of the Republic of Türkiye

International solidarity following lethal acts of violence in schools in Türkiye

Dear Minister Tekin,

Education International (EI) and the European Trade Union Committee for Education (ETUCE) express their deepest condolences and solidarity with the students, education workers, and families affected by the recent tragic events in schools in Türkiye.

Schools must be safe public spaces. Ensuring the physical and mental well-being of students and education workers is a fundamental public responsibility. Violence in education settings cannot be addressed through security measures alone and must be tackled through comprehensive public policies, effective prevention mechanisms, and genuine social dialogue with education trade unions.

EI and ETUCE stand in full solidarity with our member organisation Eğitim Sen and fully support its decision to organise an extraordinary two-day work stoppage in schools, as well as the launch of a continuous "Vigil for Life" protest in front of the Ministry of National Education in Ankara. These actions reflect the gravity of the situation and the urgent need for accountability and concrete measures to guarantee safe schools.

We urge the Turkish authorities to take immediate action to protect students and education workers and to engage constructively with education trade unions to address the root causes of violence in education.

It is our sincere hope that the people of Türkiye will find strength, healing, and unity as you move forward through this painful period

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized 'J' followed by a long, sweeping horizontal line that ends in a small upward hook.

Jelmer Evers
European Director

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'David Edwards' in a cursive, flowing script.

David Edwards
General Secretary Education International