



Education International  
Internationale de l'Education  
Internacional de la Educaci3n  
Bildungsinternationale



European Trade Union  
Committee for Education

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## **Türkiye: Statement of International Solidarity with KESK and Eğitim-Sen Women Union Leaders Facing an Unjust Trial**

Education International (EI), together with the European Trade Union Committee for Education (ETUCE), expresses the full solidarity of its global membership with KESK, the independent Confederation of Public Employees' Trade Unions in Türkiye, and its affiliate Eğitim-Sen, the Education and Science Workers' Union, as they defend their trade union rights.

We stand firmly with the women leaders of KESK, including leaders of Eğitim-Sen, who are facing trial in Ankara on 21 April due to proceedings dating back to February 2012. Fourteen years on, they continue to face terrorism-related charges for exercising their legitimate trade union and democratic rights, including participation in peaceful protests and collective action in pursuit of occupational interests.

This protracted judicial process, which has already resulted in imprisonment and harassment for the defendants, constitutes a flagrant violation of trade union rights and fundamental principles of justice. Justice delayed is justice denied.

These prosecutions are part of a broader and well-documented pattern of repression against KESK and its affiliated unions. The misuse of criminal and anti-terror legislation to silence trade union leaders is incompatible with Türkiye's obligations under European and international law, notably ILO Convention 87 on Freedom of Association.

Education International recalls the repeated recommendations of the International Labour Organization (ILO), which affirm that *"no one should be prosecuted for legitimate trade union activities, including participation in peaceful strikes or protests, and that the right to a fair trial includes the right to be tried without undue delay."*

Education International calls on the Turkish authorities to guarantee a fair, transparent, and impartial trial and to immediately end the criminalisation of trade union activity. We stand firmly with KESK, Eğitim-Sen, and all trade unionists courageously defending democracy, gender equality, and workers' rights in Türkiye.

Education International will continue to inform its global membership, work closely with Eğitim-Sen, and closely monitor developments in this case.

David Edwards  
General Secretary  
Education International

Jelmer Evers  
Director  
ETUCE