

WORLD TEACHERS' DAY 2023

Communiqué of the World Union of Catholic Teachers.

The great changes that in recent years have characterised, and sometimes disrupted, life throughout the world increasingly call for teachers capable of providing effective responses to the multiple educational needs and the many complex emergencies that the younger generations and families themselves are facing.

Wars, poverty, migration, new technologies, environmental, cultural and social changes call for greater and different educational skills. To the logic of the 'safe school', and sometimes static, it is appropriate to prefer the school on the move and the presence of teachers suited to accompany pupils in the discovery of a changing world, where traditional knowledge is an adequate resource for exploring and understanding a changing world; where the values witnessed, the style of doing school and the knowledge learnt are adequate to foster an active citizenship; where 'the beautiful, the good and the true' are the way of knowing and working; where every encounter is a resource to improve and move forward, avoiding all forms of closure and paying special attention to the most fragile children and environments. Several times Pope Francis has invited teachers to be 'artisans and builders of the future'.

The generous, daily and qualified commitment of teachers is not always recognised. Even financially, their valuable educational service is not adequately appreciated. We cannot pay attention to the fact that in various environments teachers are forced to work in situations of extreme hardship and to be enslaved to cultural and political situations that do not guarantee freedom of teaching and the serene performance of educational service. Being recognised and appreciated by society and the community in which they work is a continuous spur to the improvement of their human and professional quality.

The UMEC-WUCT urges the international and national communities to fully value the function and work conducted by teachers with adequate and renewed initial training, selection and continuous training, international opportunities for exchange and comparison, as well as with appropriate forms of recognition and appreciation that support teachers in improving the status of the profession.

In addition to the training guaranteed by the State, it is appropriate to give, and recognise, every teacher the opportunity to improve his or her human and professional training through participation in the life of professional associations, a space for meeting, comparing and maturing for each person. A society that takes care of teachers, supports them, appreciates and values them, has at heart the education of children and young people and the future of a better world.

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As an NGO, it has consultative status with the Council of Europe, Ecosoc, Unesco and Unicef.**