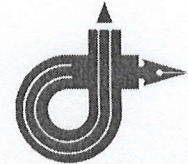


**TEACHERS UNION OF SERBIA
REPUBLIC COMMITTEE**



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Belgrade, March 22, 2024.

**Education International - Sector for Human and Trade Union Rights
ETUCE**

**Letter on the Endangerment of Human and Trade Union Rights of Serbs and
Other Non-Albanian Population in Kosovo and Metohija**

Dear colleagues,

I am addressing you on behalf of the members of the Teachers Union of Serbia in Kosovo and Metohija and all education employees due to the endangerment of livelihoods and fundamental human, labor, and trade union rights caused by unilateral actions of the authorities in Pristina.

The Education Committee of the Teachers Union of Serbia from Kosovo and Metohija and the Presidency of the Teachers Union of Serbia have analyzed the unfavorable situation and concluded that it is necessary to address international trade union organizations of which we have been active members for many years.

The unbearable situation has been caused by the decision of the Central Bank in Pristina to introduce the euro as the sole currency of payment from February 1, 2024, and to prohibit transactions with Serbia and payment in dinars, the currency of Serbia. This prevents all employees in education, as well as in healthcare institutions, social support, and pensioners, from disposing of earnings acquired through work. Salaries and pensions, as well as social benefits to Serbs in Kosovo and Metohija, as well as other non-Albanian populations, are paid from the budget of the Republic of Serbia.

In Kosovo and Metohija, there are 103 primary and secondary schools, 17 preschool institutions, 2 colleges, and a university, with thousands of employees who receive their wages through the Ministry of Education of the Republic of Serbia and are paid from the Budget of the Republic of Serbia.

The Budget of the Republic of Serbia pays 60,946 salaries and pensions, 2,430 scholarships for students, and finances community kitchens for around 2,000 of the most socially vulnerable citizens. By abolishing the dinar as a means of payment, a vast number of residents are deprived of basic means of livelihood.

In addition to the inability to access salaries, the entry of consumer goods is also prevented, endangering the basic functioning of the population, the supply of healthcare institutions, and pharmacies. The education system is also

endangered because of the lack of teaching materials and equipment, thus jeopardizing the quality of education.

Education employees and their families are concerned about their future and feel unsafe, viewing these actions as additional pressure for emigration from the territory of Kosovo and Metohija.

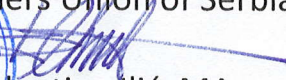
The negotiation process with the Pristina authorities is taking place with the mediation of the EU and other important actors, and the global public is informed about the situation at the UN Security Council session in early February 2024. Negotiations are at a standstill with no practical solution to this and other problems faced by the non-Albanian population in Kosovo and Metohija.

We address you as overarching international organizations of which we are members, with the desire for you to also engage in resolving these issues and, within the scope of your organization's authority, encourage and support the negotiation process and influence the earliest possible provision of safety of life and basic conditions for our members, their families, and the endangered population.

In solidarity,



President of
Teachers Union of Serbia


Valentina Ilić, MA