

<b>To:</b> Executive Te Huarahi	HX24/002 Strat Plan Ref: Advocating 29 January 2024
<b>From:</b> Chris Abercrombie, Te Amorangi/Acting President	



# Supporting the Education International’s call for a ceasefire in the Hamas Israel Conflict

Executive [Political committee]

Recommendations
<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. That the report be received.</li><li>2. That PPTA Te Wehengarua, as an affiliate of Education International, supports their call for an immediate ceasefire in the Hamas/Israel Conflict.</li><li>3. That PPTA Te Wehengarua write to the Minister of Foreign Affairs and the Minister Education outlining our support, as an affiliate of Education International, for their position.</li></ol>

As you are all aware the ongoing conflict in Gaza between Hamas and Israel has claimed thousands of lives of men, women, and children.

This conflict has had a significant impact on the education of the children of Gaza with EI reporting the destruction of 88 schools and the denial of education of more than 600 000 children in Gaza.<sup>1</sup>

EI has both condemned the Oct 7<sup>th</sup> attack<sup>2</sup> and called for an immediate ceasefire.

## *Call for Peace*

EI immediately and unequivocally denounced the 7 October terrorist attack launched by Hamas against Israeli civilians. EI also called for an end to the Israeli bombardments and military actions which have caused the death of thousands of civilians.

More than two months within the devastating conflict, EI continues to advocate for an end to this terrible war, the release of all hostages, and an end to indiscriminate violence. EI also reiterates its call for an immediate United Nations enforced and guaranteed ceasefire, the establishment of humanitarian corridors to prevent further humanitarian catastrophe and loss of civilians and genuine efforts towards sustainable peace.<sup>3</sup>

The full text of EI’s statement on a ceasefire can be found here <https://www.ei-ie.org/en/item/28161:education-international-calls-for-urgent-humanitarian-ceasefire-in-gaza> but the key section is below:

## *Immediate humanitarian ceasefire*

"The bombardments launched by Israel across Gaza have been indiscriminate and disproportionate. The hostages must be released, and the bombings must stop. We condemned the attack by Hamas against civilians in

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.ei-ie.org/en/item/28104:education-international-calls-for-an-immediate-stop-to-the-disproportionate-and-indistinct-retaliation-in-gaza>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.ei-ie.org/en/item/28076:joint-ei-etuce-statement-on-israel-and-palestine>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.ei-ie.org/en/item/28245:education-international-mobilises-global-education-support-for-palestinian-educators>

Israel, and we condemn the military assault against the civilian population in Gaza," declared David Edwards, General Secretary of Education International.

"We will continue to engage with our member organizations in both Israel and Palestine, emphasizing the critical importance of dialogue and the preservation of the values of democracy, education and peace," he added.

Education International is also deeply concerned about the rise in hate speech and of antisemitism and anti-Islamic acts exacerbated by the violence in the region. EI reiterates that all educational institutions must remain free from hate, and ensure the safety and wellbeing of students, teachers, and learning communities.

Especially during times of war and conflict, teachers and education support personnel should receive guidance and support in addressing discrimination within educational settings. They play a pivotal role in fostering inclusivity, diversity, and respect, and are key to creating environments where students and staff can learn, grow, and thrive without fear of hate and discrimination. Moreover, educators can help students develop critical thinking skills and media literacy to counter the spread of disinformation.

EI extends its unwavering support to all students and educators in the region and remains committed to advocating for a peaceful resolution, the protection of schools, universities, and educational personnel, and the prioritization of education in relief efforts.

Education International reiterates the call of the 2019 EI World Congress urging all parties to: "Renounce violence and commit to engage in direct negotiations".

PPTA Te Wehengarua has increasingly been asked what our policy is on this conflict, and I believe the most straightforward and appropriate way for us to response is, as a member of EI, to support their call for a ceasefire.