

Dear Sisters and Brothers!

Solidarity with education support staff in the United Kingdom

On behalf of Public Services International and its 20 million members I want to assure you of our fullest support and solidarity with UNISON members who work as support staff in higher education and sister unions UCU and Unite for your national day of strike action this Thursday 31 October.

It is utterly unacceptable that education staff is paying for the greed of its management and employers. While some of the highest paid employees make more than the leadership of the country, over 4000 employees are paid below the Living Wage. This is a shame to your country and a blemish on the UK's education system.

Across the UK terms and conditions are being eroded while job insecurity is increasing. Whereas austerity has led to ever smaller wages, with pay awards being below the cost of living for the fifth year in a row, the balance sheets show cash surpluses of over £1bn. Continuing these policies will have detrimental effects on the education staff and ultimately on the future generations that need knowledge and skills to make our economy competitive and innovative. At the same time, these initiatives will have long-term effects on social cohesion.

We support UNISON, UCU and Unite in their demands for a significant improvement on the current 1% pay offer from their employers. Education workers who deliver quality public services deserve social justice and a decent wage.

In solidarity,



Rosa Pavanelli
General Secretary