



University and College Union

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Mr Antonis Samaras
Prime Minister of the Hellenic Republic

Mr Konstantinos Arvanitopoulos
Minister of Education and Religious Affairs of the Hellenic Republic

Mr Kyriakos Mitsotakis
Minister of Administrative Reform and E-governance of the Hellenic Republic

Dear Mr Samaras, Mr Arvanitopoulos and Mr Mitsotakis,

On behalf of the 117,000 members of the University and College Union (UCU) in the United Kingdom, I urge the Greek government to abandon its efforts to dismiss thousands of teachers at vocational lyceums and vocational schools.

If the proposed multi-bill is passed, over 2500 teachers are facing an eight-month suspension on just 75 per cent of their basic statutory salary prior to their dismissal. The transference of 5000 secondary education teachers to primary education is also unacceptable to our sister trade union, the Greek federation of secondary education state school teachers, OLME.

If the bill is passed, three sectors of vocational education will be affected and up to 20,000 students will lose access to vocational education. Furthermore, vocational education will be handed over to the private sector. The UCU believes that universal access to high-quality, free public education remains the best way forward for any society.

Teachers cannot be expected to pay the price for the crisis and the Greek government should not engage in efforts to curtail public education. The civilian mobilisation order issued by the Greek government prevented trade unions from exercising their right to strike action. This decision eroded basic civil liberties and democratic rights in Greece.

Furthermore, austerity measures have been destroying the future of education in Greece. The UCU urges the Greek government to act in the interest of the people of Greece by defending public education and abandoning its efforts to close down vocational lyceums and vocational school.

Yours sincerely

Sally Hunt
General Secretary