

RESOLUTION 3.5

LGBTI RIGHTS

Proposed by NASUWT/United Kingdom

Original language: English

Congress notes:

1. That defending the human and trades union rights of all people around the world is a fundamental principle enshrined in international laws;
2. That the promotion and protection of human rights irrespective of sexual orientation, gender identity or gender expression is an important principle adopted by EI and its affiliate organisations;
3. The persistence of homophobic and transphobic hatred and the rising levels of hatred against LGBTI people as a result of the passage of laws that criminalise and stigmatise LGBTI communities;
4. That in 78 countries the law criminalises homosexuality, creating the conditions that encourage the abuse, harassment, intimidation, violence and murder of people on the grounds of their actual or assumed sexuality or gender identity;
5. That the incitement of hatred and legitimising anti-gay laws is a direct contravention of EU and international human rights obligations including the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights (Article 21);
6. The growing problem of hate speech and hate crime motivated by prejudice, discrimination and bigotry against LGBTI people;
7. That hate crime and hate speech against LGBTI communities often go unreported due to fear of victimisation and reprisals.

Congress further notes:

8. The 2014 Joint EI-PSI Statement on LGBTI violations condemning discrimination and violence against LGBTI people and calling for the global trade union movement to actively oppose homophobia and transphobia and organise to defend LGBTI rights;
9. Evidence demonstrating that discrimination in education continues to blight the lives of children, young people, teachers and education support professionals who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans or intersex;
10. The work of organisations such as the International Lesbian, Gay Bisexual, Trans and Intersex Association (ILGA) and its member organisations in securing equal rights for LGBTI people around the world.

Congress believes:

11. That a violation of these rights by governments, political parties and other organisations is a legitimate trade union issue and one that should be challenged collectively by the trade union movement;

12. That the trade union movement is a formidable force for championing LGBTI rights and working in solidarity with the international community;
13. That schools, colleges and higher education institutions should be free from hatred, prejudice, intimidation and violence and be safe sanctuaries for children, young people, teachers and education support personnel;
14. That schools, colleges and higher education institutions play a key role in educating against homophobia and transphobia through curriculum subjects and effective employment policies.

Congress resolves:

15. To champion LGBTI rights throughout all EI campaigns and policies;
16. To commit resources of Education International to lobby governments to end the criminalising and persecution of LGBTI people and to campaign for human rights for all;
17. To assist the work of EI member organisations in defending the rights of LGBTI students, teachers and education support personnel;
18. To work actively with partner organisations to promote LGBTI rights;
19. To collect, publish and disseminate evidence on the incidence and impact of LGBTI discrimination in education.