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**European Trade Union Confederation [ETUC]**  
**Confédération européenne des syndicats [CES]**

## **ETUC, ETUCE and ILGA-Europe commit to work jointly to combat homophobic bullying in schools, in workplaces and in society**

16 May 2012

*On the 2012 International Day Against Homophobia and Transphobia, the European Region of Education international, the European Trade Union Committee for Education (ETUCE), the European Trade Union Confederation (ETUC), and the European Region of the International Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Intersex Association (ILGA-Europe), affirm their commitment to strengthen their collaboration at national and European level to prevent and combat jointly homophobia and transphobia at school, in workplaces and in society.*

As democratic representative organisations, trade unions play a special role in society and contribute effectively to the development of many aspects of society, including education. Trade unions should continue to be at the forefront in tackling any forms of discrimination, at the workplace and in all their actions and activities.

Good practices have already been initiated at national level by many public authorities, civil society organisations and trade unions. Let's share them and expand them!

Said Claudia Menne, ETUC Confederal Secretary: "*Homophobic bullying and harassment occur every day within society. Individual children and adults are harassed on the basis of their perceived or actual sexual orientation. Schools are, among other key players, responsible for ensuring that society's diversity is respected*".

ETUC, ETUCE and ILGA-Europe reaffirm today their commitment to work jointly towards those objectives and to seek that, in the future, no one within the school community will be bullied, harassed or discriminated, on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity or gender expression.

**Joint commitment of the European Trade Union Committee for Education, the European Trade Union Confederation and the European Region of the International Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans and Intersex Association to combat homophobic bullying in schools, in workplaces and in society**

**- Joint Statement**

**ETUC**, the European Trade Union Confederation speaks with a single voice on behalf of the common interests of workers, at European level. Founded in 1973, it now represents 85 trade union organisations in 36 European countries, plus 12 industry-based federations. In 2008 ETUC adopted recommendations on promoting equal rights, respect and dignity for workers regardless of their sexual orientation or gender identity.

[www.etuc.org](http://www.etuc.org)

**ETUCE**, the European Trade Union Committee for Education represents 135 Teacher Unions in Europe and 12.8 million teachers from all levels of the education sector. ETUCE is a Social Partner in education at the EU level and an Industry Federation within ETUC, the European Trade Union Confederation. ETUCE is the European Region of Education International.

[www.etuce-csee.org](http://www.etuce-csee.org)

**ILGA Europe**, the European Region of the International Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans and Intersex Association represents 359 LGBTI organisations from 44 countries across the European Region. ILGA-Europe enjoys participative status at the Council of Europe; receives its largest funding from the European Commission; and enjoys consultative status at the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations (ECOSOC).

[www.ilga-europe.org](http://www.ilga-europe.org)

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