

ETUC Youth Committee Resolution on right-wing Populism

In many European countries there is a certain crisis in democracy and traditional political subjects appear to be weaker. This development is often associated with the rise of populism. Even centre-orientated parties use more and more populist tools in their communication. Inequality in the European societies fuels the rising of extreme right wing populist parties. The bad quality jobs and life prospects which resulted from the economic crisis and the wrong policies implemented since then are fuelling the support to such movements.

The ETUC Youth Committee denounces right-wing extremism and populism, including ultra-nationalism, xenophobia, islamophobia, euroscepticism and anti-semitism. We are deeply concerned by the influence of these forces on young people and our European society.

Our vision is of an open and inclusive society and a European citizenship that adds to the quality of people's (working) lives. We call for the defence of fundamental values of tolerance, non-discrimination and cultural diversity.

We call on the European Trade Union Confederation and all European Trade Unions to take urgent and resolute action against growing forces of hatred and division in our European and global society.

For keeping trade union values in the world of rising populism, we propose:

1. To always act in line with our core values, such as freedom, equality, solidarity, justice, democracy, transparency and never compromise about the basic values of the trade unions;
2. To invest in quality research in order to create knowledge about the dynamics behind populist and extremist speech;
3. Promote real alternatives for the future and campaigning for common values. Use these alternatives in effective and targeted both in of internal and external communication to better transmit our alternatives;
4. To reinforce and strengthen Trade Unionists to recognize populism, discuss threats, build good practices and promote European interaction in order to act against populism. This should be done through trainings, in particular with sessions by the European Trade Union Institute co-organised by the ETUC Youth Committee;

5. To seek alliance with the No Hate Speech campaign, a youth campaign by the council of Europe that aims to reduce the increasing acceptance of hate speech;
6. To put forward a European-wide campaign to prevent right wing extremism and populism among young workers.

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