

Scottish Education Workers Network



Letting Go of the Status Quo... Teachers and Learners For a New Society

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WAR

As teachers and learners we can challenge the profit-before-people ideology of capitalism, counter the pervasiveness of violence in capitalist society, and take a stand against wars as acts of terror by national governments in collusion with corporate profiteers.

Wars are tragedies that governments dress up as national pride and public service. In fact, wars ruin the lives of soldiers and communities alike by encouraging and condoning distrust, hatred, and violence between people of different faiths and ethnicities.

War is peddled as a career path for young working class people who have rightly figured out that society as currently structured has no place for them. Military recruitment in the schools is a travesty, full of jingoism and false promises. Schools must permit their students to hear a peace alternative to the propaganda delivered by military recruiters.



DON'T JOIN THE ARMY

DON'T FIGHT IN NEEDLESS WARS

DON'T GET INJURED

DON'T GET TRAUMATISED



PEACE

Peace is not just the pause between wars, but a total re-creation of society. It is a process of liberation that strengthens our connections, locally and globally. Peace rejects nationalism and puts our internationalism into practice through coordinated actions and projects around austerity, workers' rights/human rights, civil liberties, war and militarism, and the environment.

As teachers and learners, our opposition to war becomes transformed by our focus on what we can accomplish through the sharing of ideas and feelings in the context of cooperation, compassion, collective action, discussion and debate, and peaceful means of solving problems.

JUSTICE

Discrimination, gross inequality of income and opportunity, divide-and-conquer social policy, and endless forms of manipulation of all aspects of our lives allow 1% of the global population to control the lives of the rest of us through their wealth, power, lies, and conniving. Indeed, the gap between rich and poor,

privileged and ignored, ruled and exploited, has become a chasm of misery for most of the world's population. Solidarity of the international working class, achieved through common purpose and egalitarian structures, can change this situation.

As teachers and learners, we can put forward alternatives that reject the status quo and that model a new society- one that enables and welcomes us to care for one another.

As education workers, we can challenge the mainstream trade unions by putting forward anti-authoritarian, non-hierarchical worker organisations, such as the Industrial Workers of the World, as alternatives. We can come together to take our values and ideals from the realm of the "unrealistic" to the forefront of global mass action for a better world.

We will look forward to the day when Scotland is known worldwide for the skill and commitment of its teachers, learners, and peacemakers.

What SEWN Stand For:

We are education workers organising to strengthen ties within the education sector here in Scotland, throughout the UK, and around the world.

We represent an alternative, rank-and-file, industry-wide model of organising. With the support of the Industrial Workers of the World and other like-minded groups, we are in the process of building a network of workers and students who are interested in fighting for our rights and in developing and sharing anti-capitalist teaching and learning practices through education forums, films, conversations, and writings.

Those of us who are members of the IWW will function within our TUC unions as dual carders and will work with other radicals to form caucuses within these unions. The Network also welcomes those with connections to the education sector but who are not currently permanently employed within it, or not members of any union.

Join us if you agree that...

- Workers and students, united non-hierarchically through out the education sector, have every right to make and carry out decisions about curriculum and working conditions.
- The skills agenda and corporate control, at all levels of education, have to go.

- There is no place in our sector for a division between mental and manual labour; or on the basis of gender, religion, ethnicity, or physical ability. Solidarity, communication, and compassion within the working class is essential.
- We need to take militant direct action against job cuts, department closures, give-backs on pensions and benefits, and excessive workloads.
- The crisis in education is part of a global assault on the public sector, so building relationships and coordinated actions across national boundaries is very important.
- We don't support mainstream political parties, including the Labour party and the SNP, since their interests and methods are at odds with our principles of education for liberation.

