

**Solidarity with our colleagues in New Zealand**

Ljubljana, May 28th, 2019

Dear Mr Goulter, NZEI National Secretary, and Mr Michael Stevenson, NZPPTA General Secretary, dearest colleagues from New Zealand!

The Education, Science and Culture Trade Union of Slovenia (ESTUS) strongly supports the causes for which NZEI and PPTA have called for strike actions across New Zealand on Wednesday, May 29th.

In ESTUS we express our great solidarity with NZEI and PPTA, all the teachers, principals and other education personnel, and we stand with you in your demands to the government to take bold action to make teaching a valued, respected and sustainable profession. It's about our children and their opportunity to have access to quality education, delivered by well-trained, respected and properly supported teachers.

Although we are a tiny country in the heart of Europe, we stand strong with you and all the educators of New Zealand. And not only the teachers of Slovenia, you obviously also have enviable support of New Zealanders that share your demands to the Government to prioritise education spending over other areas.

Be persistent in your demands! You can have us as an example – on October 5<sup>th</sup> 2017 more than 1.000 teachers gathered in Ljubljana, our capital, and we began our campaign to raise the salaries of teachers. The government didn't want to listen to us so we had to go on strike – the first one on February 14<sup>th</sup>, 2018, and it was the biggest one since our independence – more than 20.000 teachers gathered in Ljubljana for a big demonstration (see the picture attached, you can use it freely in your communications). We repeated another day of general strike on March 14<sup>th</sup> with rallies in 10 cities around the country. After the resignation of the previous government we announced we won't stop and will go on with our demands as soon as we get a new government. And that happened in Autumn last year. We already announced a third day of a strike but this time the politicians were smart enough to see that we are determined to get for what we have decided! So – you have a goal, you have full support of your members and the public, you are right with your demands. Persist!

Dear Paul and Michael, please accept my sincere expressions of support and solidarity, and extend them to your colleagues in the union and all the educators in New Zealand!

In solidarity!

Branimir Štrukelj, general secretary of ESTUS