

# ANTUSA



ASSOCIATION OF NON-ALIGNED TEACHER UNIONS OF SOUTHERN AFRICA  
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## ASSOCIATION OF NON – ALIGNED TEACHER UNIONS OF SOUTHERN AFRICA (ANTUSA) SOLIDARITY

### STATEMENT WITH TEACHERS IN ZIMBABWE

1. The Association of Non – Aligned Teacher Unions of Southern Africa (ANTUSA) is a Southern African bloc of educators' trade unions that is affiliated to by 7 educator unions from Botswana, Lesotho, Mauritius, Namibia, South Africa, Zambia and Zimbabwe. It's a regional organ that represent between, its affiliate members, about 100 000 educators in Southern Africa.
2. The Association of Non – Aligned Teacher Unions of Southern Africa (ANTUSA), having followed closely the events as they unfold in Zimbabwe, and having been in close contact with one of its affiliate members in that country, being the Progressive Teachers Union of Zimbabwe (PTUZ), would like to raise the following sentiments in support and in solidarity with educators in Zimbabwe, that;
  - 2.1. Noting the fragility of the school environments with respect to COVID – 19, the government of Zimbabwe should with immediate effect, in its response to challenges posed by the pandemic in the education sector, provide schools and the education workers with the necessary COVID – 19 abatement equipment and Personal Protective Equipment (PPEs) to reduce their vulnerability to COVID – 19.
  - 2.2. Noting that the international acclaimed preventative protocol is adhering to social distancing of a minimum of 1 to 2 meters as recommended by the World Health Organization (WHO), and that the Zimbabwe educators' trade unions have called for the adoption of a student – teacher ratio of 1: 20 to achieve social distancing in classrooms, we as ANTUSA call upon the Zimbabwe government to with immediate effect, actualize the call by educators' unions by hiring teachers that are needed to achieve this mandatory preventative protocol.
  - 2.3. The Zimbabwe government should cease with immediate effect to pay educators' wages using the valueless Zimbabwean Dollar which has failed to hold itself against the market forces and has consequently subjected them to sheer abject poverty. We as well call upon the government of Zimbabwe to strictly adhere to previous agreements with unions and

upgrade the educators' salaries to peg them at an equivalent of between 520 – 550 US Dollars to maintain their purchasing power.

- 2.4. The government of Zimbabwe should forthwith desist from continuous and persistent harassment of trade union leaders by subjecting them to torture, intimidation and judicial persecutions.
  - 2.5. Noting the drastically eroded salaries for educators and the rest of the employees in the public service in Zimbabwe, we call upon the Zimbabwe government to desist from threatening to dismiss teachers and educators in general who are unable to report to work on account of inadequacy of financial resources.
  - 2.6. The ANTUSA bloc calls for the respect of educators' rights, and those of the general citizenry in Zimbabwe. We passionately appeal to the powers that be to allow citizens of Zimbabwe including education workers to exercise their rights to freedom of association, expression, peaceful assembly, inclusive of the right to strike.
  - 2.7. The Zimbabwe government should allow itself to be subjected to a peer review mechanism by accommodating the Southern African Development Community, African Union and other international organs such as the International Labour Organization to facilitate in national dialogue of all stakeholders to find a long - lasting solution for the socio – economic and political quagmire that the country find itself in.
3. In conclusion, the Executive Board of the Non – Aligned Teacher Unions of Southern Africa (ANTUSA) expresses its unmeasurable support and solidarity with all educators and the general working class in Zimbabwe during this rather difficult time. We in the same vein appeal to educators to stand united and in defiance of any harassment, intimidation and persecution.

Thank you, —

Winston Radikolo

Secretary General, ANTUSA