

PRESS RELEASE

Association of Secondary Teachers Ireland, Irish Federation of University Teachers, Irish National Teachers' Organisation and Teachers Union of Ireland

22 SEPTEMBER 2009

TEACHER UNIONS PROMISE OPPOSITION TO CUTS IN PAY

The four Teacher Unions have declared their total opposition to cuts in the pay of their members. Such cuts are totally unacceptable and will be resisted.

The General Secretaries and Presidents of ASTI, IFUT, INTO and TUI issued a Joint Statement after their meeting today (Tuesday, 22 September 2009). "We want to send a crystal clear message to An Taoiseach and his Ministers that we will not accept the scape-goating of our members to pay for a financial crisis which we did not cause.

"We are dismayed that, all of a sudden, the Government seems to have come to the belief that cutting the pay of teachers and other public servants is an easy and readily available option.

"As our economic crisis deepened there was much talk about the need for a national debate about what kind of society we should be building and how it should be paid for. It is almost beyond belief therefore that, without any justification or analysis whatsoever, An Taoiseach should simultaneously refuse to reform our tax system and indicate that he intends to cut Public Sector Pay and Social Welfare Payments.

"Our national crisis can only be resolved by a national consensus and a shared sense of purpose. Teachers and lecturers have already suffered a severe drop in living standards. If more pain is necessary, it must be spread fairly and evenly over those who can most afford it. Singling out public servants for special treatment is nothing more than an ill-thought out recipe for social division."

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