



The Educational
Institute of Scotland

His Excellency Mr. Jovenel Moïse
President of the Republic of Haiti

30th April 2021

By email only: protocole@presidence.ht

Copy: nahomme.dorvil@presidence.ht; sg@primature.ht;
jackson.pleteau@menfp.gouv.ht, headoffice@ei-ie.org

**Subject: Respect the Right to Education and Freedom of Association in
Haiti**

Dear Mr. Jovenel Moïse,

I am writing to you today on behalf of the Educational Institute of Scotland (EIS) to express our deep concern at the current security and political situation in Haiti, which we believe seriously affects the exercise of the rights and freedoms of the people of the country, and in particular children and teachers as well as the proper functioning of schools and education unions.

Our sister organizations in Haiti, the Confédération Nationale des Educatrices et Educateurs d'Haïti (CNEH), the Fédération Nationale des Travailleurs en Education et en Culture (FENATEC), the Union Nationale des Normaliens/Normaliennes et Educateurs/Educatrices d'Haïti (UNNOEH) and the Union Nationale des Normaliens d'Haïti (UNNOH), reported to us the widespread atmosphere of insecurity that has reigned in the country for many months. Children are exposed to violence on their way to school and schools have been closed in some areas for safety reasons. This deleterious atmosphere also prevents the proper functioning of education unions, whose representatives cannot travel to the provinces to carry out their legitimate activities in support of education workers.

In addition, we are dismayed to learn that the Haitian education authorities have still not reversed their decision to arbitrarily transfer Magalie Georges, Secretary General of the CNEH, and Georges Wilbert Franck, Coordinator of UNNOEH, to remote areas from their place of residence. The anti-union nature of these punitive measures is beyond doubt and we call on the authorities to immediately and unconditionally restore them to their positions, as well as any other education personnel affected by similar measures.

The EIS joins its sister organisations in Haiti and Education International, the global union federation representing more than 32 million teachers around the world, in calling on the Haitian authorities to ensure:

- Rule of law, peace, democracy and strict respect for the constitution;
- Safety in schools, where the right to education of every child must be respected;
- Full exercise of the right to freedom of association and collective bargaining for all teachers and education employees; in particular by restoring without delay a healthy and constructive dialogue with the education unions;
- Decent working conditions for teachers and education staff.

Awaiting positive engagement and intervention from you, we will continue to closely monitor the situation in Haiti and support the legitimate demands of education unions.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Larry Flanagan". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Larry Flanagan
General Secretary