

Hellenic Federation of University Teachers' Associations

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Defending the Public University

The Greek government has been trying to turn Higher Public Education into a commodity, academia into "merchants of knowledge", and students into passive consumers and clients of the latter. University Teachers are resisting these efforts and are fighting for **Public** and **Free** education at all levels. They oppose any prospect of revising the article 16 of the Greek Constitution that stipulates that Universities in Greece are public self-governed institutions and funded by the state.

In order to improve the current standards of higher education we demand that the Government to assume its constitutional obligations towards education. We claim that expenditure for public education should double and expenditure for research should triple in order to converge to the mean expenditure of European Union countries. We are fighting for a self-governed University that will ensure academic freedom freedom in teaching and research, independent from any state or private interventions.

We are fighting for better conditions in education, for more lecture theatres, more laboratories and clinics, more student residences.

We are fighting against the dissolution of the academic curricula, against the devaluation of degrees and against the annulment of the collective professional rights of our graduates.

We are fighting against the policies which degrade the role and the position of university teachers.

We are fighting against the inadmissible status-quo of casual staff (25% of university teachers) who work on the basis of short-term contracts and are deprived of many rights and of any prospect of advancement.

We are fighting for decent salaries that enable us to be totally devoted to our work, which is teaching and research.

We are fighting to preserve the institution of the "academic asylum" that is guaranteed by law to all higher education institutions in Greece and which pertains to all of the society.

university teachers are fighting together with their students for
PUBLIC, FREE EDUCATION

STRUGGLE FOR PUBLIC AND FREE EDUCATION
IS A MATTER FOR ALL SOCIETY

WE OPPOSE THE REVISION OF ARTICLE 16, OF GREEK CONSTITUTION