

JH/AB  
22 April 2022

**By Email Only [norma.foley@oireachtas.ie](mailto:norma.foley@oireachtas.ie)**

Ms. Norma Foley  
Minister for Education  
Minister's Office  
Department of Education  
Marlborough Street  
Dublin  
D01 RC96

**Re: The Inclusion of Trade Union History and the Role of Trade Unions in Student and Pupil Learning**

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Dear Minister Foley,

Further to our BDC on the 4<sup>th</sup> April 2022, please be advised that our Conference passed a motion calling on the Government to include in its education system both the history and role of trade unions. The purpose of the education initiative is to ensure that the vital role of Trade Unions in Ireland regarding social justice, economic and employment rights-based agendas are fully understood by this and future generations, which we hope will also generate the interest of future trade union members and leaders.

Mandate has over the years participated in educating pupils, attending local school forums, as well as liaison and attending student events. The exclusion of comprehensive employment rights-based information in the current school curriculum, which we believe should include the unique history of the Irish Union movement and the social values associated with the movement are learning gaps in the development of our children and workers of the future.

Second level education in Ireland covers Trade Unions to a limited extent and is disregarded to some extent outside of the business subjects/modules. This practice prohibits a true reflection and the extent to which the Trade Union movement in Ireland perform their roles both nationally and locally, both politically and within each employment location. Much of the work Trade Unions perform is unseen advocacy that rarely gets published or recognised. My role in Mandate over the past number of years has allowed me to experience the benefits of our members becoming more aware of the Unions role in shaping society. Mandate would like to play a bigger role in this regard, and we would welcome engagement with the relevant government officials to discuss our concerns and what we envisage as a great learning opportunity for the most important people, which are the pupils and the students.

I look forward to hearing from you soon.

**Yours sincerely**  
**For Mandate Trade Union**



**Jonathan Hogan**  
**Assistant General Secretary**

**CC. Simon Harris, Josepha Madigan, Bernie McNally, Dalton Tattan**

**Mandate Head Office**  
O'Lehane House  
9 Cavendish Row  
Dublin 1

t (01) 8746321 / 2 / 3  
f (01) 8729581  
e [mandate@mandate.ie](mailto:mandate@mandate.ie)  
w [www.mandate.ie](http://www.mandate.ie)

**General Secretary: Gerry Light**  
**Registered Number: 604T**

JH/AB  
22 April 2022

**By Email Only [simon.harris@oireachtas.ie](mailto:simon.harris@oireachtas.ie)**

Mr. Simon Harris  
Minister for Further & Higher Education, Research, Innovation & Science  
Office Unit 4, Market Court  
Main Street  
Bray  
Co Wicklow

**Re: The Inclusion of Trade Union History and the Role of Trade Unions in Student and Pupil Learning**

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Dear Minister Harris,

Further to our BDC on the 4<sup>th</sup> April 2022, please be advised that our Conference passed a motion calling on the Government to include in its education system both the history and role of trade unions. The purpose of the education initiative is to ensure that the vital role of Trade Unions in Ireland regarding social justice, economic and employment rights-based agendas are fully understood by this and future generations, which we hope will also generate the interest of future trade union members and leaders.

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**Registered Number: 604T**

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22 April 2022

**By Email Only [josepha.madigan@oireachtas.ie](mailto:josepha.madigan@oireachtas.ie)**

Ms. Josepha Madigan  
Minister of State for Special Education & Inclusion  
Department of Education  
Marlborough Street  
Dublin 1  
D01RC96

**Re: The Inclusion of Trade Union History and the Role of Trade Unions in Student and Pupil Learning**

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Dear Minister Madigan,

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**Registered Number: 604T**

JH/AB  
22 April 2022

**By Email Only [secgen@education.gov.ie](mailto:secgen@education.gov.ie)**

Ms. Bernie Mc Nally  
Department of Education Secretary General  
Department of Education  
Marlborough Street  
Dublin 1  
D01RC96

**Re: The Inclusion of Trade Union History and the Role of Trade Unions in Student and Pupil Learning**

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Dear Secretary General Mc Nally,

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**By Email Only [Minister@education.gov.ie](mailto:Minister@education.gov.ie)**

Mr. Dalton Tattan  
Department of Education Assistant Secretary  
Department of Education  
Marlborough Street  
Dublin 1  
D01RC96

**Re: The Inclusion of Trade Union History and the Role of Trade Unions in Student and Pupil Learning**

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Dear Secretary Tattan,

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