YOUTH STRIKE COALITION PRESS RELEASE

THE 20TH NOVEMBER INTERNATIONAL YOUTH AND STUDENT STRIKE HAS BEGUN

Hundreds of thousands are taking the streets this morning across Europe, and many more are expected to do the same in the afternoon. Young people and students are protesting in over 25 countries to claim a better future for their generation, following the call of the Youth Strike Coalition, a platform involving more than 50 different organisations.

20 November 2026

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Today the International Youth Strike, the biggest coordinated European youth protest of the last years, is taking place, with hundreds of thousands of people currently striking in the streets and blocking their schools and UniversitiesMany other mobilisations are expected during the afternoon in other countries.

Students and young people are striking in over 25 countries *[find the list below]*, involving an average of 400 different cities, all under the slogan “Fight for our Future, not Their Wars”.

“With this historic mobilisation, we are showing to the world the strength and the power of our generation” declares Alessandro Di Miceli from Rete della Conoscenza, Italy: “We are protesting to claim our right to a better and dignified future, and we are aware that if we stand united, no knew will be able to stop us from taking it.

From the right to education to the right to housing, from the struggle against the rising cost of living and the climate crises to the fight against militarisation and rearmament, specific demands may differ from country to country, but are all deeply connected between each other.”

As outlined in the Youth Strike's International Manifesto *[find the complete text below]*, the mobilisation is built around five common demands:

- An end to militarisation and rearmament policies, with structural investment in education and welfare instead.
- The abolition of all forms of military conscription.
- Solidarity with the struggles of oppressed peoples around the world, starting with the Palestinian people.
- Climate justice and social justice.
- Radical transformation of the system we live in, standing against authoritarianism, repression and the far right.

The coalition argues that the growing prioritisation of military spending over people's needs is one of the clearest examples of the political choices young people are challenging.

“As young people, we know that we must organise and fight for our future, because no one else will do it for us” declares Leonor Chicó from Estudantes pelo Fim ao Fóssill, Portugal: “The ruling classes across our countries show us every day that the needs of our generation are not their priority. Instead, they put profits and power first.

The EU's ReArm Europe plan, now known as Readiness 2030, is a clear example: it aims to mobilise up to €800 billion for rearmament, while these resources are desperately needed to be invested in education, youth policies, housing and social welfare.”

For the coalition, however, 20 November is not an isolated day of protest, but the beginning of a broader international process of mobilisation.

“We know that this strike alone, no matter how large, will not be enough to achieve the changes we need.” adds Shabbir Lakha from the Stop The War Coalition, UK.“But this mobilisation is a crucial step towards building a lasting international movement capable of bringing together young people, students and workers around common demands.

We are determined to continue organising and mobilising in the months ahead, until these demands become reality. The ruling classes of our countries should begin to worry, because **this 20 November will only be the beginning. We will keep standing together as youth to fight for our future, not their wars.**”

Another press release will be sent out in the late afternoon, which will include the final count of participants to the strike day.

ENDS

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VIDEO RECORDINGS OF THE INTERNATIONAL PRESS CONFERENCE ON THIS MATTER: https://youtube.com/@internationalyouthstrike (in english, italian, french, spanish)

REFERENCES:
List of countries and organisations mobilising
Text of the Youth Strike Manifesto
Website of the International Youth Strike