YOUTH STRIKE COALITION PRESS RELEASE

ONE MILLION STUDENTS AND YOUNG PEOPLE MOBILISE ACROSS EUROPE FOR THE 20 NOVEMBER INTERNATIONAL YOUTH STRIKE

One million students and young people took to the streets across Europe and beyond on 20 November, as more than 27 countries joined the International Youth Strike to demand a better future for their generation.

20 November 2026

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Today, **one million students and young people** mobilised across more than 27 countries in Europe and beyond, marking a historic day of international youth strike action. It has been years since such a high level of coordinated youth mobilisation has been achieved. Under the slogan **"Fight for Our Future, Not Their Wars"**, protesters came together to demand the right to a better future for their generation.

"Today, we have shown the world the strength and power of our generation," declares Alessandro Di Miceli from Rete della Conoscenza, Italy. "By mobilising one million young people and students internationally, we have made it clear that we will not stand by while our future is put at risk by the decisions of our countries' ruling classes. Our future is clearly not among their priorities, but they have failed to anticipate the wave of mobilisation we are building.

"While states are spending billions on rearmament and militarisation, we are demanding structural investment in education and welfare - resources that are desperately needed, particularly in the face of the ongoing rise in the cost of living. Today's massive demonstrations show the strength of public support for these demands across our countries."

Although each country has developed specific demands according to its national context, the Youth Strike Coalition - a platform bringing together more than 50 organisations - has identified five common international demands, set out in its manifesto [see the full text below], around which today's mobilisation was organised:

- 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.

- A radical transformation of the system we live in, standing against authoritarianism, repression and the far right.

“Today, we have managed to bring together youth-led movements that have been mobilising across Europe in recent weeks, from France to Italy, Spain, Germany, Belgium and Portugal,” explains Leonor Chicó from Estudantes pelo Fim ao Fóssil, Portugal. “But alongside these movements, many other countries have organised large youth protests for the first time. This makes 20 November the starting point of a new international youth movement, which will continue to mobilise in the months ahead.

“Our generation has the greatest need for change, but also the greatest capacity to imagine it and make it happen. However, no single day of protest will be enough to achieve our demands. That is why this strike will be only the first of many international mobilisations planned for the coming months.”

In the coming weeks, the Youth Strike Coalition will announce the next steps in its mobilisation process, with the aim of expanding the movement and bringing even more young people into action.

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VIDEO RECORDINGS OF THE INTERNATIONAL PRESS CONFERENCE

https://youtube.com/@internationalyouthstrike

Available in English, Italian, French and Spanish.

REFERENCES

List of countries and organisations mobilising

Text of the Youth Strike Manifesto

Website of the International Youth Strike