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To: all members of the TUI  
Executive Committee

16<sup>th</sup> March 2020

Unity and solidarity

Dear Colleagues,

As you know, the Executive Committee of the Teachers' Union of Ireland, in concert with our colleagues in the INTO and the ASTI, took the decision on Friday last (13<sup>th</sup> March) to postpone the Annual Congress of the Union. That decision was not taken lightly but it was undoubtedly the necessary and appropriate decision given the grave threat to public health caused by the rapid spread of the Coronavirus/Covid-19.

I wish to assure you that the TUI will continue to function and to represent your interests and the interests of the communities we serve during the coming weeks and months. We may have to make occasional adjustments in line with the advice of governmental and health agencies but the TUI will remain available as a support to you. We will, for example, continue to liaise closely with the Department of Education and Skills and other relevant bodies.

As public servants, you will continue to be paid during the period of school/college and centre closure. This decision of government is set out in Circular Letter. You will still be working, albeit from home in many instances. It is obvious but important to note that, in the current very difficult circumstances, the profession has a key role to play in creating an environment of hope, optimism, stability and connectedness for our students. We in the TUI have every confidence that your professional commitment will, as always, be evident to all in this regard.

Of course, our dearest wish for all of you, your families and friends, your colleagues and students and your communities – our communities – is that you come safely through the challenge and risk that we face. Other considerations – important as they may be – are secondary. It is a time for all of us to take care of ourselves by taking care of one another. Never has solidarity been more essential.

Please keep in touch with and through the Union. Get the latest advice through the TUI website, [www.tui.ie](http://www.tui.ie). Use the TUI Members' App. If you have a suggestion as to how TUI can show solidarity with and assist the broader community, email it to [tui@tui.ie](mailto:tui@tui.ie), to me ([jmacgabhann@tui.ie](mailto:jmacgabhann@tui.ie)) or to any of my colleagues.

We will keep in touch with you by all the means available to us.

Ar uair seo na h-éigeandála,  
Seasaimís le chéile,

John MacGabhann  
General Secretary