

Inter-Religious Council of Uganda



Religions for Peace

PRESS RELEASE

INTER-RELIGIOUS COUNCIL OF UGANDA CALLS FOR URGENT RESOLUTION TO TEACHERS' STRIKE

On 15th September 2025, Arts teachers in Government-aided Primary, Post-Primary, and other Educational Institutions across Uganda commenced a nationwide strike, demanding salary increments that match those of their counterparts in Science disciplines. Currently, a Science teacher in Government secondary schools earns three times more than an Arts teacher.

Since then, despite ongoing engagements between Government officials and representatives of the striking teachers, no resolution has been reached, and the strike continues. The greatest casualties of this impasse are the children—whose education and future hang in the balance. Arts teachers have now been absent for three consecutive weeks, leaving learners without instruction in critical areas of the curriculum.

Moreover, prolonged school closures risk triggering a repeat of the tragic consequences witnessed during the COVID-19 pandemic lockdown—when many children dropped out of school and were exposed to abuse, including sexual exploitation, which led to a surge in teenage pregnancies. We must not allow history to repeat itself.

As the Inter-Religious Council of Uganda (IRCU), we affirm that all public servants, including teachers, deserve fair and competitive remuneration—free from discrimination. We acknowledge the Government's commitment to implementing salary enhancements for teachers at all levels through a phased approach. More importantly, we reiterate IRCU's earlier position that Government should institute a Salary Review Commission to harmonize salary structures across all sectors of Government.

In the same stride, we urge our teachers to exercise compassion and reason, bearing in mind that the majority of learners in public schools come from economically disadvantaged backgrounds. We ask: is it possible to resume teaching while continuing to engage in constructive dialogue over salary concerns?

We further caution against threats by Government to replace striking teachers, as such measures may escalate tensions rather than resolve them.

We call upon the Government to urgently and meaningfully address the concerns of educators, and we implore teachers to prioritize the well-being and future of Uganda's children. Let us work together to restore learning, protect our youth, and uphold the values of justice and compassion.



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Secretary General

INTER-RELIGIOUS COUNCIL OF UGANDA

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