

Dear teachers,

I am writing to express the sadness I feel about an ongoing situation in Slovakia. I am fully aware of the difficult and deteriorating situation in your country, which demoralizes and undermines your working conditions and your lives as a whole.

I would like to take this opportunity and tell you about the problems teachers face in my country. Unfortunately, teachers in Azerbaijan face a similar situation, where this profession is taken as simply extraneous and lower-ranked. Teachers can hardly make ends meet with a monthly salary in the amount of 350 euros. This factor triggers them to work additionally at schools and universities, having private students, in order to earn more and survive from the conditions they are exposed to. Moreover, at some universities teachers are even obliged to pay extra rent payment for the room they occupy during off-duty time. Not only are educators robbed of their private and social lives, but they also suffer from not being valued and respected. I am very disappointed that teachers do not have the freedom of speech to express their dissatisfaction and displeasure with the situation as a whole. If teachers do complain, they simply might be fired and urged to find another place to work. It probably sounds very severe to all of you, but this is the harsh truth that teachers in Azerbaijan face.

However, I have never stopped believing in the great job teachers do as they invest in the society and students' lives as well. It is because of your help and support that students endeavour to justify your hopes. This is the reason I am very passionate about the teaching career and education in general because I am convinced that teaching is one of the most rewarding professions in the world. I also do believe that one day I will witness a better situation in my home country. I will not cease loving and devoting myself to teaching for the rest of my life and I do envisage positive outcomes for the future. What can be better than sharing your knowledge, intelligence and wisdom with your precious students? What can be better than waking up every morning and being inspired and motivated and to be able to contribute a part of your abilities and skills to every child's life?

Dear teachers, my sympathy is with you and I hope the government in Slovakia will soon change the situation for the better where all your needs will be met. Your efforts give me hope for the future of education in my country too.

Thank you all for your attention.

Sincerely yours,

Jamila Maharramova