World Teachers' Day 2026 marks 60 years of protecting and advancing the teaching profession

The world will mark World Teachers' Day on October 5 as educators confront a profession undergoing profound change, from the rise of artificial intelligence and digital technologies to climate change, migration and displacement, alongside persistent concerns over pay, workloads, working conditions and professional autonomy.

This year's observance has added significance as it marks the 60th anniversary of the ILO/UNESCO Recommendation concerning the Status of Teachers, adopted on October 5, 1966. The landmark instrument established international benchmarks for teachers' rights and responsibilities, professional preparation and continuing education, recruitment and employment, and teaching and working conditions.

UNESCO will host the global celebration at its headquarters in Paris on October 5, bringing together teachers, education ministers, policymakers and other stakeholders to examine the future of the profession. The program will feature high-level discussions on protecting and advancing the status of teaching, along with the presentation of the ninth UNESCO-Hamdan Prize for Teacher Development.

Held under the theme "Standing with teachers: 60 years of protecting the profession, advancing its status and shaping our futures," this year’s

observance will focus on the challenges affecting teachers' status and on strategies to protect, promote and elevate the profession, according to UNESCO.