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LEGAL PERSON OF PUBLIC LAW UNDER THE AUSPICES OF THE
MINISTRY OF CULTURE AND SPORTS
GREEK NATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE IAA
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To: Our colleagues in IAA World

COMPLAINT - CALL FOR SUPPORT

New class barriers in education

Art lessons expelled from the Lyceum!

Students are forced to turn to tutoring and hundreds of substitute art teachers are condemned to unemployment.

Public education in Greece suffers from chronic degradation imposed by the official state. Its characteristics include: underfunding, the devaluation of teachers, unsuitable school units, the lack of laboratories, the lack of teaching staff, etc. Students, in their attempt to fill in the gaps in school, start from a very young age and concurrently with school, a marathon of extracurricular lessons in centers of creative activities, foreign language and arts tutoring centers and tutoring centers for the admission to higher education institutions. As a result, they have no creative time at all within an education system which is based on the intensification of examinations. Moreover, students live with anxiety and insecurity about their future, instead of dreaming and setting goals and prospects for their lives.

The current government, maintains the policy of degrading the arts, which was pursued by all previous governments, with a new law that was recently passed, which abolishes art courses (art, music, theater) and sociology altogether for the three last years of secondary education (Lyceum), intensifies examinations for admission to higher education institutions. In addition, the law provides that examinations start from the first grades at the expense of teaching, while formulating an authoritarian policy for the education system as a whole, with punishments for students (expulsions, certificates of conduct) and teachers alike (teachers are deprived of their right to submit a new application to work in schools

for three years, if they are unable due to illness, family, etc. to work at the school to which they are appointed).

The ministerial decision of June 15, 2020, defines the timetable of the courses for the last three grades of secondary education (General Lyceum) and the timetable of the courses of night school (Evening general lyceum). According to the timetables, visual arts, free design and music courses are completely ABOLISHED in Lyceums, despite the fact that free and linear design courses are included in nationwide examinations for the admission in HIGHER EDUCATION institutions.

The Government has abolished the arts in Lyceum, in the context of a policy that promotes a “dry” general education school, which provides "training" in "skills" at the expense of courses that cultivate general education, promotes the commercialization of knowledge by treating education as a place of economic competition and profitability for investment capital. It promotes a policy that aims to create a school that will simply be the vestibule for creating exploitable, cheap and flexible workforce.

In the face of the society's outcry, including complaints from all institutions of education, the Federations and Associations of parents, the whole University community and all artistic institutions, resolutions and demonstrations, the government responds with authoritarianism, police violence, slander against teachers and lies. The Ministry of Education and Minister Niki Kerameos are trying to deceive Greek society with deceptive constructions such as, for example, that in addition to the daily school curriculum, art support programs and other courses required for admission to universities will be created, solely for the last grade of secondary education, having left the students without aesthetic education in the previous grades...

Thus, in the country that saw great achievements in the Arts, Sciences and Philosophy, the current government abolishes teaching them in an authoritarian way... thereby abolishing Culture in education, with disastrous consequences for the quality of Greece's intellectual and social life...

This decision made by the Government:

- Places huge class barriers in the education of all those students who are oriented towards art-related studies (Schools of Fine Arts, Schools of Graphic Design, Decoration, Architecture, Multimedia and all arts in general). The courses of free and linear design are courses included in nationwide examinations. Students are required to take exams for admission in courses that they will not have been taught, and as a result only those who can pay for tutoring can study. Para-education and private education win.
- Deprives students of the required, necessary education for comprehensive development of their personality, aesthetic cultivation, the development of their perceptual ability, the development of the creative and emotional facet of their personality.

- Drives hundreds of substitute art teachers to unemployment.

The Chamber of Fine Arts of Greece strives for the development of visual arts education within a single 12-year, free public school void of discrimination, one that offers equal opportunity in knowledge and education, access of all students to art and culture, as specified in the Constitution of Greece .

We demand that the school becomes a cell of knowledge, constructive thinking, creative activity, socialization and intellectual development with technological equipment, hiring of permanent educators, cleaning staff, etc., development of creative workshops, promotion of Art and Culture.

To that end, we call on the bodies of education and art to support the struggle of artists, art teachers, students and their families, so that Culture has the place it deserves and students have the education that the State is obliged to provide.

WE ASK FOR YOUR SUPPORT IN OUR STRUGGLE:

1. ART IS THE RIGHT OF EVERY STUDENT IN PUBLIC SCHOOL
2. WE REQUEST THE IMMEDIATE REVOCATION OF THE DECISION TO EXCLUDE ART AND SOCIOLOGY COURSES FROM LYCEUM HIGH SCHOOL AND THEIR SMOOTH OPERATION AS MAIN COURSES IN ALL GENERAL LYCEUM GRADES.
3. FINE ART COURSES SHOULD BE LABORATORY COURSES AND MUST BE TOUGHT BY FINE ARTISTS.

Kind regards

The President



Eva Mela

The Secretary General



Kathrin Chatzi