

NASUWT PRESS RELEASE

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NASUWT RESPONSE TO TUC MOTION ON GOVERNMENT'S FIVE YEAR EDUCATION STRATEGY

Commenting on the TUC motion on the Government's Five Year Education Strategy, **Chris Keates**, Acting General Secretary of NASUWT, the largest union representing teachers throughout the UK, said:

"The inclusion in the Government's five year strategy of a recognition of the vulnerability of teachers is a vindication of the NASUWT campaign and we welcome the Government's tangible steps to address the problems we have highlighted.

"We were pleased to have the opportunity to debate this at the TUC Congress as these issues have universal appeal. All those who work with children are vulnerable to false and malicious allegations and we will press the Government to ensure that any proposals made on this issue embrace all workers who may fall victim to false accusations."

Pat Lerew, NASUWT President, speaking in support of the motion, said:

"NASUWT welcomes the strategy's acknowledgement of the vulnerability of teachers and other school staff to spurious allegations and the commitment to publish proposals to defend their interests.

"The area of false, exaggerated and malicious allegations by pupils against teachers is one NASUWT has been highlighting for many years.

"We are not attempting to protect those who abuse children. Such people have no place in schools. But we have seen the results of too many prolonged and publicised investigations."

"The cost to those who were vindicated after months and even years of investigation and pressure has been incalculable. For many, the judgment came too late to prevent nervous breakdowns and the collapse of family relationships. Most are incapable of walking back into a classroom and some have even committed suicide."