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Dear colleagues,

On behalf of 8 million public services workers, I am sending you EPSU's solidarity greetings for your White Demonstration on the 29th of May. We know how the pandemic hit people and the health system in Turkey and put more pressure on health workers. Low wages and precarious working conditions, including long working hours and staff shortages, weaken the capacity to fight against the devastating impact of Covid-19 but also undermine the resilience of the whole health system.

We note with concern the surge in acts of violence against health workers. EPSU supports your demand for safe workplaces and calls on the Ministry of Health to take the necessary measures immediately. Health workers cannot save lives without life security.

Due to the high inflation rate in the country, which is officially around 70 per cent, workers can't make a living. Therefore, EPSU strongly supports your fight to improve your members' pay and conditions and ensure that health workers' purchasing power is protected against the sharp rise in inflation.

Following months of work by EPSU and its affiliates in the health and care sector, the Advisory Committee on Safety and Health at Work (EU OSHA) made a historic step and recently added Covid-19 to the list of occupational diseases. Although thousands of health workers lost their lives while fighting the pandemic, Covid-19 has been not recognised as an occupational disease by Turkey. Many experiences revealed that it is necessary to protect health workers to cope with the pandemic. We believe that your demonstration will be a significant step in your struggle for the recognition of Covid-19 as an occupational disease.

The White Demonstration, which will paint Turkey's capital white, also demonstrates how strong we are when we come together.

I wish you success in your demo that brings health workers, doctors, dentists, veterinarians, psychologists, social service workers, nurses, midwives, paramedics, radiology technicians, academics and patients together.

In solidarity,



Jan Willem Goudriaan
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