



# news

## For Immediate Release

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### TESOL affirms status and rights of teachers

Alexandria, Virginia (April 2007) – At its recent meeting, the Board of Directors of Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages, Inc. (TESOL), approved the association's position on the status and rights of teachers worldwide. Citing the unique role education plays in human society, and the essential role teachers play in educational advancement, TESOL affirms that teaching should be regarded and respected as a profession. Moreover, TESOL supports a number of rights for all members of the teaching profession, including

- The right to working conditions that will best promote effective learning and enable teachers to concentrate on their professional tasks;
- The freedom to exercise the civic rights generally enjoyed by all citizens;
- The right not to be subjected to arbitrary or unlawful interference with their privacy, family, home, or correspondence;
- The freedom from any form of discrimination on the grounds of race; ethnicity; nationality; language background; disability; health/medical condition, including HIV/AIDS; age; religion; gender; gender identity; and sexual orientation in aspects of teacher preparation and employment; and
- Professional and academic freedom to find the methods and classroom approaches that best meet the democratically decided objectives of the education system.

TESOL's full Position Statement on the Status and Rights of Teachers is available at [www.tesol.org](http://www.tesol.org).

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Founded in 1966, Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages, Inc. (TESOL), is a global education association with more than 13,500 members and 95 affiliates in over 120 countries. Representing a multifaceted academic discipline and profession, TESOL offers members serial publications, books, and electronic resources on current issues, ideas, and opportunities in the field of English language teaching. TESOL also conducts a variety of workshops and symposia, including an annual convention, regarded as the foremost professional development opportunity for English language educators worldwide. TESOL's mission is to ensure excellence in English language teaching to speakers of other languages.