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Empowering Teachers to Promote Inclusive and Equitable Education

Professor Lani Florian, Bell Chair Emerita
University of Edinburgh

Abstract

The 2018 [European Union Council Recommendation](#) on promoting common values, inclusive education, and the European dimension of teaching noted that '*High quality inclusive education and training at all levels, is essential in ensuring social mobility and inclusion...*'. As an implementing measure, the European Commission recommended that teachers, school leaders and academic staff be enabled to, '*promote common values and deliver inclusive education, through: (a) measures to empower teachers, school leaders and academic staff helping them convey common values, and promote active citizenship while transmitting a sense of belonging and responding to the diverse needs of learners*'.

This presentation considers how knowledge about learner differences can be integrated with the broader pedagogical and curriculum knowledge that teachers have to learn and be able to apply in the classroom. It considers the essential role that teachers play in promoting inclusive education and the importance of teacher education and professional development programmes in preparing and supporting them to work with diverse learner groups.

Bio

Professor Lani Florian is Bell Chair of Education Emerita at the University of Edinburgh. She is best known for her research on inclusive pedagogy and teacher education for inclusive education. Over the years, she has worked with UNICEF, the OECD, Open Society Foundations, the British Council, the Council of Europe and the European Agency for Special and Inclusive Education to ensure the results of her research are being applied in schools and integrated into first and higher degrees in universities in around the world. Since retiring in 2023, she enjoys supporting mid-career colleagues to develop their own programmes of funded research and maintains close contact with researchers in universities in the UK, Europe the wider international education community. Currently, she is Series Editor for Springer's *Inclusive Learning and Educational Equity* book series.

In 2024 Lani was awarded the John Nisbet Fellowship by the British Educational Research Association (BERA). Named in honour of BERAs first President, this award recognises individuals who exemplify BERA's commitment to encouraging educational research and its application for the improvement of practice and public benefit. Lani received the award in recognition of her internationally renowned work on teacher education and inclusion and her commitment to influencing policy and practice and supporting the wider academic community.