



DECLARATION OF EDUCATION INTERNATIONAL, 25 NOVEMBER 2011

Education International
Internationale de l'Éducation
Internacional de la Educación
Bildungsinternationale

**Every person has the right to live free
of coercion, discrimination and fear of violence.**

**Every girl and woman has the right to live free
of coercion, discrimination and fear of violence**

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Every girl and woman has the right to education. Without education to empower economic, social and political participation, solutions to global problems of poverty, conflict and violence are beyond reach.

Yet, for hundreds of millions of girls and women worldwide, these human rights are denied. Education International works to ensure that women's rights are protected. Further, EI recognizes that gender based violence is not a woman's issue-it is an issue that concerns all of mankind.

The International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, marked every year on 25 November, acknowledges injustice and encourages change. EI calls upon teacher organisations to raise awareness of the scope of the phenomenon of violence against girls and women, and to organise prevention measures to eliminate violence against women in the union, in the workplace and in the community. Schools must be safe spaces for all, learners and teachers, if they are to full fill their promise of truly being places where people learn and grow together.

EI advocates for the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), especially Article 10, which calls for all appropriate measures to eliminate discrimination against women in the field of education and the elimination of stereotyped concepts of roles of men and women at all levels and in all forms of education. Non-discriminatory education benefits both girls and boys and thus ultimately contributes to more equal relationships between women and men.

EI seeks to build commitment to non-violence and peace in the minds of men and women education workers through gender-sensitive trade union and human rights education and non-violent approaches to conflict resolution.

On this 25 November, EI calls on governments to guarantee the provision of quality universal public services, in particular quality education and vocational training free of charge and with adequate facilities, qualified teachers, gender-sensitive relevant curricula, safe transportation, and sanitation. It is through these measures that girls and women with have the chance to achieve not only literacy but empowerment and the right to lead their lives free of the fear of violence and discrimination.

For further information go to

- EI Congress resolution on Gender Equality
http://download.ei-ie.org/Docs/WebDepot/2.4.1E_Gender_Equality.doc
- ITUC Trade unions say no to violence against women and girls
<http://www.ituc-csi.org/IMG/pdf/ITUC-violence-pageGB.pdf>
- UN Women Virtual Knowledge Centre to end Violence against Women and Girls
<http://www.endvawnow.org>
- UN Women 16 Steps to End Violence against Women
<http://www.unwomen.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/11/EN-16-Steps.pdf>