

## **Education International's statement at the occasion of the March for Science**

EI supports the mission of the March for Science to champion well-funded and publicly accessible science as a pillar of human freedom and prosperity. The March for Science was initiated in the United States as a response to the recent and unprecedented attacks on scientific research, academic freedom and freedom of thought. It aims to unite a diverse, nonpartisan group to support science for the common good. It specifically calls for political leaders and policy makers to enact evidence-based policies in the public interest. In solidarity with all who are joining the March to defend the recent spate of attacks on scientific research and academic freedom, EI emphasizes the following points:

1. Research must be free. Researchers must be free to initiate and conduct research without fear of retribution and must always be protected against any and all pressure that would limit or alter their findings. Research is an endeavor that is key to both human and societal well-being. As such, it must be pursued in the broadest of senses so that it contributes to increase knowledge across all fields of study. Yet, research can only contribute to improving our planet's future prospects and our collective human interests when two fundamental freedoms are guaranteed: the freedom to conduct research and academic freedom.

2. Democracy requires that scientific knowledge be publicly available as a global common good. The State must take measures to achieve the progressive realization of scientific democracy by promoting debates and developing opportunities for knowledge exchange between researchers and civilian stakeholders. To this end, the State must guarantee intellectual freedom of research and the professional autonomy of the scientific field upstream of the decisions aimed at developing public policy. Our aim must be evidence-based public policy making and not public policy-based evidence.

Marches will take place across the world on 22 April 2017.