



Education International  
Internationale de l'Éducation  
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## **EI/PSI Sexual Diversity Forum: Letter of Invitation**

Education International (EI) and Public Services International (PSI) are pleased to announce that the third **EI/PSI Sexual Diversity Forum** will take place in Cape Town, South Africa, from 18 to 19 July 2011, prior to the EI World Congress. The venue for the forum is the *Cape Town International Conference Centre (CTICC)*: <http://www.cticc.co.za/public/main/home.aspx>.

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

On behalf of Education International (EI) and Public Services International (PSI), we look forward to welcoming you as a participant to the *third EI/PSI Sexual Diversity Forum on July 18-19 2011* in Cape Town, prior to EI's Sixth World Congress.

The Forum provides guidance to global unions, and the EI and PSI Executive Boards and Steering Committees, in undertaking the activities proposed by member unions represented at the Sexual Diversity Forum.

The Forum provides an important opportunity to improve areas of work and ways of working, in the current changing scenario. The aims of the Forum are:

- to provide information on current trends;
- to exchange good practices;
- to strengthen alliances;
- to build workplace programmes on non discrimination;
- to provide guidance on future work.

The outcomes and recommendations will be delivered to the EI Congress by the co-chairs for its consideration at the next EI and PSI Executive Board meetings.

Participants include trade union representatives, civil society and labour organisations from all regions. We make a special request to EI and PSI delegations to ensure gender balance among local and international delegations.

Simultaneous interpretation will be provided in English, French and Spanish during plenary sessions. We invite you to complete the attached registration form and to return the form as soon as possible.

**For PSI delegates**, please send completed registration forms to [Clarisse.Heronneaud@world-psi.org](mailto:Clarisse.Heronneaud@world-psi.org), by **31<sup>st</sup> May at the very latest**.

**For EI delegates** please register your participation and reserve your accommodation by using your union's login information to the Congress website at <http://www.ei-ie.org/congress6/en/participants.php>

The draft program and the related documents will be posted on the EI Congress website in coming days.

### **Flights**

Delegates are advised to book their flights as early as possible. For travel assistance you may contact Pieter de Haas from Winners at [Pieter@thewinnersgroup.com](mailto:Pieter@thewinnersgroup.com) or visit the website ([www.thewinnersgroup.com/index.php?theme=travel&pagecontent=what.php](http://www.thewinnersgroup.com/index.php?theme=travel&pagecontent=what.php))



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## Accommodation in Cape Town

### ✚ PSI

A discounted rate for PSI delegates has been negotiated with the Strand Tower Hotel, in Cape Town ([www.strandtowerhotel.co.za](http://www.strandtowerhotel.co.za)), where we have secured a block booking. It is within walking distance of the CTICC and also in good proximity to the Waterfront area. Rooms at this hotel can be booked by contacting Kay Theron, Winners at [Kay@winnerstours.co.za](mailto:Kay@winnerstours.co.za). If you choose to stay at the Strand Tower Hotel, transfer from/to airport to/from hotel will be arranged by Kay, based on your flight details.

Alternatively, you can find more information on hotels through the Convention Centre's website: <http://www.cticc.co.za/public/main/hotelServices.aspx>. Please advise PSI if you choose to book a different hotel.

### ✚ EI

EI participants should book their accommodation directly through the EI Congress registration website (<http://www.ei-ie.org/congress6/en/participants.php#hotels>).

## Information about visas

Please check well in advance if you need a visa for South Africa or any transit countries and allow enough time to apply for them. **For PSI delegates:** should you need a nominative letter of invitation to obtain a visa, please send a request to [Clarisse.Heronneaud@world-psi.org](mailto:Clarisse.Heronneaud@world-psi.org), indicating your passport details (full name and surname as it appears in your passport, place/date of birth, passport number, place/date of issue and date of expiry).

**For EI delegates,** please download the letter of invitation from the website using your Congress log in information. If you are an assisted delegate, please contact the Congress team at [congress6@ei-ie.org](mailto:congress6@ei-ie.org).

## Background to the EI/PSI Sexual Diversity Forum

EI and PSI launched the first international Sexual Diversity Forum prior to the EI Congress in 2004, Porto Alegre/Brazil.

The Forum tasked Education International and Public Services International to:

- Create awareness among EI and PSI member organisations, which have yet to develop policies and programmes to oppose discrimination on grounds of sexual orientation and gender identity;
- Reinforce learning and linking experiences between LGBT workers and trade unions at national, regional and international level, through facilitating communications and sharing of resources and information;
- Encourage the creation of national networks or groups to develop policies and capacity building programmes designed to promote respect for the rights of LGBT workers;
- Act as an advocacy mechanism to call for the explicit recognition of the rights of LGBT workers in international human rights instruments, including ILO Convention 111 (discrimination in employment);
- Seek to engage other global unions in this work and participate in advocacy coalitions with other organisations.

The *Porto Alegre Declaration* sets out a comprehensive agenda for trade unions, governments, NGOs and international organisations.



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At the second EI/PSI Forum held in Vienna prior to the PSI Congress in 2007, EI and PSI reconfirmed their commitment to the Porto Alegre Declaration and launched a joint negotiating guide: "*Trade unionists together for LGBT rights!*" Copies of the publication, together with the outcomes of the second Forum, are available at <http://www.world-psi.org/LGBT> and [http://www.ei-ie.org/websections/content\\_detail/3276](http://www.ei-ie.org/websections/content_detail/3276).

The third EI/PSI Sexual Diversity Forum is a great chance for you to help strengthen our solidarity and to become more involved in LGBT issues. For further information please contact [Rebeca.Sevilla@ei-ie.org](mailto:Rebeca.Sevilla@ei-ie.org) at EI or [Clarisse.Heronneaud@world-psi.org](mailto:Clarisse.Heronneaud@world-psi.org); [Chidi.king@world-psi.org](mailto:Chidi.king@world-psi.org) at PSI.

We hope to see you in Cape Town in July.

In solidarity,

Fred van Leeuwen  
General Secretary  
Education International

Peter Waldorf  
General Secretary  
Public Services International