

**Statement from the Executive Board of Education International, the global federation of teachers, educators and education support personnel unions and organisations, on activism to secure, protect and promote the rights of women and girls across the world.**

We, as representatives of the world's teachers, educators and education support personnel, salute the women human rights defenders, trade union activists, women's rights activists and leaders, and the women, girls, men and boys who never fail to find the courage to lift up their voices, to sign petitions, and to march through the streets of their villages, towns and cities, demanding that the rights of women and girls be respected, protected and promoted in all spheres of social life -

**We stand with** the thousands of marchers in Argentina, who say #NiUnaMenos - not one more woman should be the victim of gender-based violence;

**We stand with** the Icelandic women who walk off the job on October 24<sup>th</sup> every year, at the precise time at which their work becomes unpaid (at 14h38 in 2016), to protest the persistent gender pay gap;

**We stand with** the activists in Nigeria, who continue to press for the return of all of the school girls who were kidnapped from a Chibok school by the violent terrorist group Boko Haram in 2014;

**We stand with** the thousands who recently took to the streets of Poland to denounce the government's plans to limit women's bodily autonomy by curtailing the right to abortion;

**We stand with** the thousands who have signed a petition in Saudi Arabia, calling for an end to the guardianship system, which gives men control over the education, marriage and travel of female relatives, so that women can be treated as full adult citizens;

**We stand with all of these and more**, the world over, in recognition of the critical role that women play as agents of change to secure, protect and promote their rights and the rights of girls.