



UNITE FOR QUALITY EDUCATION
Better education for a better world

STUDENTS



BEFORE PROFIT



Global response to commercialisation of education

The continuing push for the commercialisation and privatisation of education is the greatest threat to high quality education for all. The market now seems to dominate all aspects of life with boundaries between public and private breaking down. Education, which once appeared to be one area that may have been immune from this agenda, is now under considerable threat.

Despite all the evidence, most notably from the OECD, showing that the application of market principles to the provision of education has a negative impact on student outcomes by deepening segregation and inequality, many governments remain steadfast in their attempts to dismantle public education.

We are already seeing the effects of this agenda with the break-up of traditional school systems. Worse still, we are seeing the emergence and spread of privately, corporate owned, and in many instances, for-profit schools, colleges and universities. This is compromising the public governance of education. It is giving more and more prominence to education as a commodity, a private, positional good as opposed to a public, societal good; it is undermining social cohesion and democracy.

The continuing growth of edu-businesses, the size and reach of which had not been foreseen, requires a specific direct response. But equally, the failure of elected officials to fulfil their primary obligation to current and future generations of students, by adequately funding and resourcing a public education system of the highest quality, requires renewed and determined action.

It is against this backdrop that we call on all governments to implement a legislative framework and action to protect students, teachers and quality education for all.

These documents provide a guide for EI's Member Organisations to assist with the development of campaigns and advocacy in the face of a growing commercialisation and privatisation in and of education.