



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

10th December - Human Rights Day

EI reaffirms its commitment to the promotion and protection of human rights

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Despite the advances made, the exercise of universal human rights continues to be a struggle for many people in far too many parts of the world. Every successful assertion of a right in one place is often followed by a flagrant breach of a right in another. We are compelled to reassert continuously what is right and what is just.

For Education International, the right to quality public education and other fundamental rights such as freedom of speech and of movement, trade union freedoms, and the right to live with dignity in just, equal and inclusive societies, comprise our core values.

On Human Rights Day these values will be illustrated by our affiliates in Tunisia when, as part of the National Dialogue Quartet, they will be awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in Oslo, Norway. The recognition of the key role of human rights, asserted through social dialogue, in building democracy in Tunisia is not only a win for human rights, but highlights the importance of trade unions in asserting those rights and building just and sustainable societies.

While we celebrate the Nobel laureates, we must also, however, recognise others for whom human rights remain a distant aspiration. We must support and show solidarity with our incarcerated and oppressed colleagues in Bahrain, Burundi, Colombia and Iran, among others. We must remind ourselves that the freedoms many of us enjoy each day are not available to millions of refugees fleeing persistent violence and other attacks on their human rights all over the world. Displaced people are entitled to exercise the same universal, indivisible, inalienable and interdependent human rights as others.

Education International calls on all governments to respect and promote the Universal Declaration on Human Rights. In particular, they should encourage and enable the teaching profession in their countries to instil in future generations an understanding of and commitment to democratic and human rights values.

As we mark Human Rights Day, we pay tribute to those teachers around the world who have made the ultimate sacrifice to assert their rights and to those who continue to fight for their rights at work and for civil liberties. It is through respect for and commitment to human rights and fundamental liberties that we will achieve peace, democracy and social and economic progress.

Fred van Leeuwen,
General Secretary

10th December, 2015