



Education International  
Internationale de l'Education  
Internacional de la Educaci3n  
Bildungsinternationale

## TO MEMBER ORGANISATIONS IN SOUTH AFRICA

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### President

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Dear Colleagues:

It is with great sadness and a deep sense of loss that we have learned of the passing of Nelson Mandela. Please accept Education International's most heartfelt condolences and extend our sympathies to your membership and the entire South African education community.

Mandela was a teacher of the world in so many ways. He taught us all about humanity and forgiveness and moral courage, and how one should never give up hope. Through him we learned that it is never too late to do right, that it is never too early to believe in each other. He was a world champion of education, an inspiration to millions of educators and a father figure to hundreds of millions of children around the globe. In fact, the establishment of EI in 1993, bringing together two rival federations of educators, drew much from his unwavering belief that strength lies in unity.

May Nelson Mandela's soul rest in peace, may he sleep for eternity, he who was a beacon of hope and a guiding light to all of us who believe in equality and social justice! Our thoughts and prayers go to you who shared his path most closely.

In solidarity,

Fred van Leeuwen  
General Secretary