



October 5th, World Teachers' Day

Joint Statement

On the occasion of World Teachers' Day on October 5th of this year Education International (EI) stresses the importance of the teacher as a key figure for achieving the objectives of education for all. Accordingly, the **slogan selected for this new edition is: "Take a stand for teachers!"**

Taking into account the context of the serious world economic crisis, where each and every segment of society has been hit by government cuts, and particularly so the most underprivileged, educational institutions are sending out a joint message of appreciation for the role of teachers as the basis for the construction and development of quality schools. Schools that are the pillars for the social, economic and intellectual reconstruction of any country.

As has already occurred in previous editions, we shall capitalise on this event to reiterate the important contribution that teachers are making worldwide towards to achieve universal education so as to eradicate the major deficiencies of schooling and attention to children and young people.

In this respect, and in order to achieve the objectives of Universal Primary Education in 2015, it is essential to create 1.7 million teaching positions. The hiring of these new teachers should be accompanied by a desire to continue improving the quality of instruction, an objective that requires well trained professionals which in turn entails an adequate economic investment in education which will, among other things, boost and support education work.

Unfortunately, in our country we have for three years been suffering from attacks by the central government and local authorities against essential public services such as education. The increase in ratios and the teaching workload, the loss of jobs in schools, the backlog in the payment of grants, together with budget cuts in such important areas as the necessary teacher training, are only a few examples. Behind the harsh legislation approved by the current government, we are witnessing the greatest collective dismissal ever in our country, with a reduction of more than 80,000 teachers, this year and last year taken together, the layoff of staff in educational and ancillary services, wage cuts and an increase in the workload. The only outcome of these measures is that Spanish teachers are confronted with overcrowded classrooms, growing more heterogeneous each time, that call for new training requirements which have to be met with fewer human as well as material resources.



Against this background where, owing to the economic and social crisis, a good part of the austerity policies has a direct impact on our education system, we are taking advantage of the World Teachers' Day to reiterate that "investing in education is investing in the future." The way to a real and solid economic recovery requires qualified training for young people and to that end, it is also necessary to boost adequate training for teachers as well.

The People's Party government is using the crisis as a pretext to promote a change in the educational model so as to adapt it to its ideology, and thus to overturn important advancements in education, contrary to the guidelines of international reports which stress the same message to invest in education to guarantee the future of our students.

Cuts in education not only undermine public education, but are also paving the way to future privatisations in the sector. These flawed policies are mortgaging the future of generations of young people who need training now more than ever before, and are delaying the end of the economic crisis.

To cap it all, the Ministry of Education has drawn up a blueprint for educational reform without consulting the education community nor engaging in any prior democratic debate.

We insist that the minister should know that no reform will succeed if it does not combine real improvement in the quality of teaching with the defence of equal opportunities, and above all, if it does not have the support of the teachers, who will ultimately have to implement that reform. For all these reasons, this year, more than ever before, we call on World Teachers' Day for support for teachers so that together with the other members of the educational community, they can manage to put a stop to the deterioration of the social and working conditions of teachers, but also to the erosion of equality in and the quality of our education system.

The government's arrogance should not dishearten us. On the contrary, we must now, more than ever before, take a stand against such brutality. We have consequently started the year with new mobilisation drives for the public sector, which includes education, which in reality are a continuation of what we summoned successfully in the past year. We are not prepared to see the attainments achieved with such effort by all, and in particular by teachers, undermined.