



## EXECUTIVE BOARD STATEMENT ON THE 2014 NOBEL PEACE PRIZE LAUREATES – KAILASH SATYARTHI AND MALALA YOUSAFZAI

Meeting in Brussels October 21-23 2014, the 43<sup>rd</sup> Executive Board of Education International celebrates the international recognition of 2014 Nobel Laureates, Kailash Satyarthi and Malala Yousafzai.

**Kailash Satyarthi** is the founder of the Global March against Child Labour, Bachpan Bachao Andolan (BBA), the South Asian Coalition on Child Servitude (SACCS), and Rugmark. In addition to working in India where he is based, Mr Satyarthi also works in Bangladesh, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka, and is a board member of the Global Campaign for Education (GCE).

Mr Satyarthi is a long-time friend of EI, most notably through the Global March against Child Labour, a worldwide network of trade unions, teachers' and civil society organisations working towards the elimination and prevention of all forms of child labour, and ensuring all children have access to free, meaningful and good quality public education.

At 17 years of age, **Malala Yousafzai**, from the town of Mingora in the Swat District of Pakistan, is the youngest recipient of the Nobel Prize. Ms Yousafzai was a school student in her home town when the Taliban instituted a ban on girls attending school in Swat in 2009. She came to prominence through a blog she wrote for the BBC detailing her life under the Taliban regime, their attempts to take control of the valley, and her views on promoting education for girls.

On October 9<sup>th</sup> 2012, while returning home on a school bus, Ms Yousafzai was shot in the head and her friend was shot in the neck in an outrageous assassination attempt by Taliban gunmen. The attempt on her life did not deter Ms Yousafzai from continuing to advocate for girls' right to an education in Pakistan and worldwide, although she was forced to leave the country to receive further treatment for the gun wound to her head.

The EI Executive board joins world leaders and ordinary people in recognising the courage, vision and tenacity of these two global advocates for children's rights.

The Board salutes Kailash and Malala; wishes them continued strength and offers the full support of EI member organisations, as we stand shoulder to shoulder in the struggle to secure equitable quality education for all children everywhere.