



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

World March of Women
International Secretariat
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President

Susan Hopgood

General Secretary

Fred van Leeuwen

Re: Support for the World March of Women 2010

Dear sisters,

Education International, the Global Union Federation representing teachers and education personnel in 173 countries and territories, extends best wishes for the success of the World Women's March Conference in Bukavu, RDC.

EI knows that quality education for all girls and women is the key to breaking the negative cycle of poverty, with all its connected and feminized human rights abuses. Unless women are educated, they cannot raise their voices or be empowered to participate fully in society.

Along our journey, EI and its member organizations have welcomed and supported your activities at local levels since the adoption of the EI resolution on the Global March for Women in 2000.

EI strongly opposes violence against women and girls, through the implementation of education union action of tackling the unequal access to education of boys and girls and building gender friendly school environments for all.

EI believes that we need more investment in people, particularly women and their families: access to education, decent jobs, including mothers and pregnant women, and the full participation in the political, social, cultural and economic life of their countries, including unions. All these themes will be addressed during the first EI World Women's Conference 'On the Move for Equality' to be held in Bangkok on 20-22 January 2011.

EI cooperates with national teacher organizations to advocate for publicly funded quality education and public services for women and girls. Recovery begins with funding public services, such as education and health, and not with budget cuts. EI affirms its efforts to eliminate gender bias in textbooks, gender stereotypes and violence against women.

EI advocates for role models of women and men through the entire education system.

In connection with the specific situation of women in RDC, EI adopted a resolution in 2008 inviting the RDC government to implement UN Resolution of 2007 on the elimination of rape and other forms of sexual violence. It also called upon the government to involve the Congolese teacher unions in the implementation of its initiatives and programs to prevent, anticipate and curb sexual violence against women and girls.

EI abhors and condemns all forms of violence against women and girls. EI wishes the World March of Women 2010 much success in its endeavors.

In solidarity,

Fred van Leeuwen
General Secretary