What is EI doing?

1. **Promote quality public Education For All to fight poverty and exploitation**
   - EI believes that by guaranteeing quality education for every child, woman and man in the world, illiteracy, child labour and other forms of human rights abuses can be deterred. EI is involved in networks like the Global Campaign for Education, Global March against Child Labour, as well as Europe for Education Campaign, to advocate for increased commitment of governments, from both developed and developing countries, to ensure the provision of quality education to all children.

2. **Fight for global social justice and against violations of human rights**
   - EI advocates and protects the trade union rights of its members, as well as the civil and human rights of all people. EI submits legal complaints to international agencies against governments which violate teachers’ rights. Through its daily work to guarantee the respect of the right to education, EI pledges to make the world more humane and more just for all people.

3. **Improve the working conditions of education professionals around the world**
   - Proper classroom and working conditions are integral to the provision of quality education. This aspect is crucial to a teacher’s right to teach and a child’s right to learn.

4. **Build teacher solidarity across the globe**
   - Through its development co-operation programmes, EI conducts training and other development programmes to strengthen the teacher movement while enhancing teaching as a profession. EI’s other solidarity mechanisms include a Solidarity Fund, and Urgent Action Appeals so as to respond to members’ crisis situations in the shortest time possible.

5. **Defend public services**
   - EI defends efficient and well-funded public education services, and advocates their constant improvement through consultation and partnership at the international and national levels. Public services provide the same rights to all people regardless of sex, religion, culture or social background. Privatisation, in the case of education services, exacerbates differences instead of reducing them.

6. **Foster social dialogue**
   - Teachers and their representative organisations are in favour of reforms which improve the education process. The involvement of education unions is a key factor in the successful planning, implementation and monitoring of genuine reforms. Teacher organisations accept co-responsibility, only if a complementary right to influence exists.

7. **HIV/AIDS**
   - EI launched, with the World Health Organization, a global programme to train teachers in the skills necessary to halt the spread of the HIV/AIDS pandemic. In some countries, AIDS is ruining decades of investment in the education sector.

8. **Fight all forms of discrimination**
   - EI pledges to eliminate all forms of discrimination that are ravaging our societies, such as on the basis of gender, sexual orientation, ethnic origin, religious or political beliefs, disability, or illness. Education personnel have a role to play in empowering students to live in peace and harmony through dialogue and respect.

9. **Stand together to make teachers’ voices heard**
   - EI works closely with its national affiliates to meet the needs of education personnel more effectively, so as to strengthen the voice of teachers in the international arena.

10. **Get ready for the next lap**
    - EI does not only respond to challenges, EI anticipates them: from General Agreement on Trade in Services (GATS) negotiations to job-related illnesses, EI keeps its members abreast of developments affecting their daily life.
How does EI function?

- Teachers are one of the best-represented and most unionised professions. Few other professional unions have members in the tiniest villages or the most isolated hamlets, such as teachers unions do - an incredibly tight global labour network by any standard.
- Education International is the world’s largest Global Union Federation (GUF). It is associated with the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions (ICFTU), a global federation of democratic and independent national trade union centres.
- Education International has developed privileged working relations with a number of major international organisations and co-operates closely with the International Labour Organisation (ILO), the World Bank, the OECD, the World Health Organization (WHO) and UNAIDS.
- EI enjoys formal associate relations with UNESCO, including the International Bureau of Education (IBE), and has consultative status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC).
- EI also encourages dialogue with all stakeholders in education: parents’ and student associations, non-governmental organisations and ministries of education.
- These relationships allow EI to promote the collective goals of teachers and other education personnel in a multitude of international forums and to provide input when important policy decisions are under discussion.

EI reaches out to every classroom teachers by voicing their concerns at the global level.

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www.ei-ie.org

WHAT ARE EI’S OBJECTIVES?

- EI defends the professional and trade union rights of teachers and other education personnel
- EI promotes, for all peoples, democracy, human rights, peace, social justice and equality through the development of quality public education for all
- EI combats all forms of discrimination in education and society
- EI fights for the rights of vulnerable groups such as children, indigenous peoples, gays and lesbians, ethnic minorities, migrants and women and girls