Press Release
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Education International, 4th World Congress
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Education International launches 3rd edition of its Barometer in the Education Sector

On the occasion of its 4th World Congress held in Porto Alegre, Brazil, Education International (EI) launched the third edition of its flagship research study, the 2004 Barometer of Trade Union & Human Rights in the Education Sector.

The publication is the result of a 3-year study on the observance of five fundamental human rights by governments in the education sector: the Right to education for girls and boys, Gender equality in education and in society, academic freedom, the Right of the child to protection from child labour, abuse and exploitation, and the Rights of workers to form and join trade unions and to bargain Collectively.

The aim of the Barometer is to demonstrate the inter-relationship of these rights and to measure and monitor the extent to which they are respected in each country where EI has members.

For the first time since its publication, the respect of academic freedom, as outlined in UNESCO's 1997 Recommendation concerning the Status of Higher-Education Teaching Personnel, is taken into account.

In this edition, the highlight on Gender Equality is included, as it constitutes one of the eight Millennium Development Goals adopted by the UN and one of the chief objectives of the Education For All initiative. Adopted by the World Education Forum in Dakar in 2001, the Education For All plan of action demanded the achievement of gender parity in primary and secondary education by 2005. However, the Barometer will help the reader realise that this will certainly not come true, at least within the timeframe given.

For more information concerning the Barometer, please contact Education International at its Brussels headquarters.