Press Release
July 15, 2004

**Education International, 4th World Congress**
Porto Alegre, Brazil, 22-26 July 2004

**Porto Alegre witnesses historic Gay-Lesbian-Bisexual-Transgender (GLBT) Forum**

*Education International* (EI) and *Public Services International* (PSI) consider discrimination based on sexual orientation and sexual identity unacceptable. Together, both global unions represent more than 46 millions workers around the world. Both global unions will launch the first Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender Forum at Hotel Plaza Sao Rafael, in the *Sala de Eventos* (Event Hall) on July 19 at 09:30.

Guests speakers include Dr Ivair Augusto Alves dos Santos, co-ordinator of the national campaign “Brazil without Homophobia”, Elsa Ramos, Equality and Youth Director of the International Confederations of Free Trade Unions (ICFTU), and representatives from the International Labour Organizations (ILO), OXFAM and the International Lesbian and Gay Association (ILGA).

More than 120 trade unions delegates and experts in policy and programme development from Brazil, Costa Rica, Fiji, Mexico, South Africa, the Philippines, Thailand, Italy, Canada, Germany, Sweden, New Zealand among other countries will gather to discuss the impact of homophobia at the workplace and the situation for GLBT workers in 6 plenary sessions and 16 workshops, as well as through various training sessions and presentations.

The GLBT Forum will provide guidance to EI and PSI’s Executive Board and Committee, in the undertaking of activities proposed by member unions represented at the GLBT Forum session prior to the Congress of each international.

*Education International* is a world-wide trade union organisation of education personnel, whose 29 million members represent all sectors of education from pre-school to university, through over 300 member organisations in over 150 countries and territories.

*Public Services International* organizes public sector workers in different occupations (health workers, fire fighters, child minders, civil servants, judges, social workers among others). It represents 20 million workers organize in 600 public service trade unions in 140 countries.

For more information concerning the EI-PSI International GLBT Forum, please contact:
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