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**5 October 2004 – World Teachers' Day**

Education International  
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## Quality Teachers for Quality Education

Education International (EI) decries the lack of respect and appreciation for teachers and sends a strong message on the occasion of World Teachers' Day on 5<sup>th</sup> October to mobilise its members and partners to uphold the profession that holds the key to our future.

Since the designation of the day in 1994 to commemorate the signing of the *ILO/UNESCO Recommendation Concerning the Status of Teachers*, EI and its over 29 million members around the world have been celebrating the event every year. This year, EI wants to highlight the declining level of respect for the profession that strives hard for a better future for our children and for a more equal, tolerant and compassionate world.

Accentuating on this year's slogan, "*Wanted: Quality Teachers to be Recruited and Retained*", EI deplores the growing practice of engaging unqualified voluntary teachers, especially in western Africa. The Education Ministry of several countries there engages persons without the necessary qualification and makes them teach in classrooms filled to the brim, after going through a few weeks of crash course.

In the Joint UNESCO-UNDP-ILO-UNICEF Statement on World Teachers' Day, the UN agencies acknowledge the difficulty of teachers' tasks, and the fact that it takes professional training and a decent work environment to teach well.

For World Teachers' Day, EI will send a delegation to the massacre site in Beslan, Russian Federation, to pay respect to the teachers murdered there. Affiliates around the world too, will use the occasion to honour teachers:

- In Africa: Many teacher unions from **Benin** to **Zambia** will organise joint activities with UNESCO national commissions; ZATU (**Zanzibar**) will continue to celebrate the day despite yearly intervention of the celebrations by the government;
- In Asia-Pacific: EI's **Indian** affiliates, AIFEA, AIFTO and AIPTF, will organise symposiums on this year's theme; **Nepalese** teachers will continue to celebrate the day despite threats from both Maoist rebels and government forces. Celebrations in **the Philippines** commence as early as on 24 Sep with joint workshops by ACT and TOPPS; NZEI, teacher union in **New Zealand**, will incorporate the theme into their national campaign;
- In North America and the Caribbean: CTF/FCE (**Canada**) will organise a press conference to publicise the results of their study on teacher shortage; BUT (**Barbados**) will conduct a joint celebration with the Education Ministry and the UNESCO National Commission;
- In Europe: EI will participate in a round table in **France**, at the initiative of the French Commission for UNESCO; DLF (**Denmark**) will launch a public event to collect money for an in-service training project for South African teachers faced with HIV/AIDS; EI's **German** affiliates will hold a press conference on the lack of government efforts to preserve the profession; In **Serbia & Montenegro**, a national monument to teachers will be unfolded by ITUESCM;
- In Latin America: FETE (**Ecuador**) will hold an event before the National Congress for 5 Oct to be officially recognised; SNTE (**Mexico**) will conduct a commemorative ceremony in front of a national monument dedicated to teachers.

Do your part to protect the teaching profession today. Log onto our website:

[www.ei-ie.org/wtd](http://www.ei-ie.org/wtd)

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