



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

Headquarters
5, Bd du Roi Albert II
1210 Brussels, Belgium
Tel +32 2 224 06 11
Fax +32 2 224 06 06
headoffice@ei-ie.org
<http://www.ei-ie.org>

Press Release

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Global Action Week 2005 (24-30 April)

Educate to End Poverty

Education International and its members will, once again, take an active role in the Global Action Week 2005 on the theme "Educate to End Poverty".

EI, together with its partners in the **Global Campaign for Education**, will be celebrating the 6th **Global Action Week** (GAW) from 24-30 April to help millions of children around the world claim their right to education.

The Global Action Week aims at mobilising public opinion to exert pressure on governments and intergovernmental agencies to provide free, quality **Education For All**. Global Action Week is always organised in April, to recall the commitment made by 185 governments in April 2000, at the **World Education Forum**, to provide Education For All by the year 2015.

Among the events in 2005 will be a "Send my Friend to School" operation. Children and adult learners around the world will make life-size cut-outs which will symbolise the 105 million out-of-school children and 860 million illiterate adults. The aim is to confront politicians and leaders with as many of these "Friends" as possible and ask them to sign a personal pledge to take specific action in 2005 to work towards the achievement of the EFA goal. These representations of illiterate children and adults, and the demands posted on the back of the cut-outs, will then be sent to the G8 Summit, to be held early July in Scotland.

The 2005 Global Week of Action is of special importance as it coincides with the date for the achievement of the first Millennium Development Goal on gender parity in primary education. The goal will not be achieved. Therefore, some of the life size cut-outs will also be sent to the UN Millennium Development Goals Summit (New York, September 2005). EI affiliates as well as other organisations will be asked to wear white ribbons or bands, as a symbolic action supporting the Millennium Development Goals.

To date, EI members in about 50 countries (among them Japan, Spain, the USA, India, Senegal, Argentina, Pakistan) have committed themselves to participating actively in the Global Action Week events.

EI has devoted a section of its website to GAW2005.

<http://www.ei-ie.org/globalactionweek/> is updated regularly to keep you abreast of every development in the campaign, and notably the section "What is your country doing".

Education International is the largest confederation of teacher trade unions with a membership of 29 million through more than 300 member organisations in over 150 countries and territories.