

Section Two:

Introduction and Purpose of the Manual

Introduction and Purpose of the Manual

In 1995 Education International (EI) held its first World Congress in Harare, Zimbabwe. Recommendations formulated in Harare identified the importance and urgency for EI and member trade unions to:

- Advocate for governments to include HIV/AIDS education in national, regional, and local school curricula and to provide ongoing support for these efforts
- Collaborate with governments to develop and/or revise HIV/AIDS policy
- Advocate for government provision of training for teachers and other school personnel
- Ensure union involvement in curriculum development
- Join forces with other international, national, governmental and non-governmental organisations to maximise resources for implementation and training

In follow up to the recommendations formulated at the first World Congress, EI joined forces with WHO, UNESCO, UNICEF, EDC, UNAIDS, CDC and other agencies to conduct seminars for EI affiliated organisations in Latin America (November, 1996), Asia and the Pacific (July, 1997), Eastern Europe (November, 1997) and Southern Africa (September, 1999). The alliance demonstrates the importance of providing teachers and trade union leaders with support to:

- Take advantage of their leadership positions and high levels of credibility to help communities in their efforts to determine the most appropriate ways to educate students about HIV prevention
- Receive necessary training by qualified professionals who are sensitive to the needs of teachers and the community at large
- Work in collaboration with other community members, including parents, health care workers, school administrators, and curriculum coordinators, to address HIV prevention and related discrimination in the schools.

Drawing upon lessons learned and needs expressed in the regional seminars, this manual provides resources (including fact sheets and accurate information and data about HIV/STI) and examples of interactive skill-building activities. Together, these tools can strengthen teaching and advocacy skills of teachers and trade union leaders. The manual can support and increase unions' efforts to apply their unique capacities and experiences to strengthen HIV-related curricula and training programs for teachers and other members of the community.

The objectives of the manual are to:

1. Provide teacher trade union leaders, their constituency and teachers with a sustainable product they can use in their countries to strengthen school health programmes, in general, and to prevent HIV infection, in particular
2. Support ongoing EI seminars in different countries, and assist EI members in implementing the EI Recommendations and Resolutions on Health Promotion and Education for HIV Prevention
3. Involve teacher trade union leaders, their constituency and teachers (as local experts and implementers) throughout the design, development and revision of the manual
4. Provide teacher trade union leaders, their constituency and teachers with useful activities and resources to strengthen their advocacy skills and their use of participatory teaching methods to prevent HIV/STI and related discrimination
5. Provide teacher trade union leaders, their constituency and teachers with resources and learning activities to address their own risks and concerns about HIV/STI and other health issues
6. Enable teacher trade union leaders, their constituency and teachers to use modern, interactive learning experiences to help young people acquire the skills needed to avoid HIV/STI and reduce related discrimination