

Section Three:

Education International's Resolutions and Recommendations on Health Promotion and Education for HIV Prevention

- **AIDS: Save the Children and the Teachers.** Executive Board Meeting, Education International, 25-27 January, 2000 Brussels (Belgium)
- **Health Promotion and School Health.** Resolution of Education International Second World Congress, 25-29 July, 1998 Washington, D.C. (United States)
- **"School Health and HIV/AIDS Prevention."** Education International Global Conference, 24-25 & 26 July 1995 Harare (Zimbabwe)
- **Health Promotion and Education for the Prevention of AIDS and Health-Threatening Behaviours.** Resolution of Education International First World Congress, 19-23 July, 1995 Harare (Zimbabwe)

AIDS: SAVE THE CHILDREN AND THE TEACHERS
EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING, EDUCATION INTERNATIONAL
25-27 January, 2000 Brussels (Belgium)

The Executive Board of Education International, meeting in Brussels (Belgium) from 25 to 27 January 2000, reiterated its deep concern regarding the human, economic and social toll caused by the AIDS pandemic throughout the world, and particularly in Africa. The Board welcomes the fact that the United Nations Security Council recently expressed its view on this issue.

EI's Executive Board reaffirmed its conviction that school is irreplaceable if a country is to improve health as well as education, and noted that many schools world-wide are not playing a significant role in HIV prevention despite evidence that: 1) young people, particularly girls, between the ages of 10 and 24 account for 50% of HIV infections occurring after infancy; 2) HIV and AIDS are significantly affecting teachers; and 3) rigorous evaluations of school-based prevention efforts provide evidence that school-based HIV/STI prevention efforts can reduce risks of infection without encouraging sexual relations.

The Executive Board appeals to all teachers to spare no effort and to urge their governments to implement a prevention and education policy integrating a real sex education, as well as teacher training programmes including the use of appropriate methods to educate about health, life skills and HIV/AIDS.

Finally, concerning the access to treatments, EI urges

- governments and pharmaceutical firms to do everything possible to ensure that medical remedies are financially accessible to all;
- member organisations to lobby their governments to reopen the TRIPS agreement at the WTO to ensure that the rights of governments to produce generic drugs during health emergencies are guaranteed, and that the concerned countries cannot be subject to sanctions, as a result.

EI calls upon all governments, all affiliated organisations and all their members to act responsibly to make school a safe and healthy place that guarantees protection from diseases and all forms of violence, a friendly place in which to learn, work and live together.

HEALTH PROMOTION AND SCHOOL HEALTH
RESOLUTION OF EDUCATION INTERNATIONAL SECOND WORLD
CONGRESS, SUBMITTED BY THE EI EXECUTIVE BOARD
25-29 July 1998 Washington, DC (United States)

The Second World Congress of Education International held in Washington, D.C. (United States) from 25 to 29 July 1998:

1. **Profoundly concerned** by the rapid expansion of infections and transmittable diseases, which pose an enormous threat to healthy human development on the planet as a whole and which can affect the social, economic and political stability of countries;
2. **Particularly alarmed** by the growing number of adolescents confronted with particularly difficult situations that expose them to numerous health risks;
3. **Convinced** that education and health are mutually complementary and reinforcing;
4. **Convinced** that the school is the irreplaceable and most useful place in a country for the improvement of both health and education;
5. **Convinced** that the state of health affects learning and success at school and that health education should give children the essential skills to enable them to make choices and adopt behaviour that will determine their health for the rest of their lives;
6. **Recalling** the joint declaration “Education and health: an alliance for development” signed with the World Health Organisation (WHO), the United Nations HIV/AIDS Joint Programme (UNAIDS) and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) on the occasion of the 45th International Conference on Education in 1996;
7. **Considering** the “Global School health Initiative” launched by the WHO as a relevant initiative to increase the number of school establishments involved in the promotion of health;
8. **Recalling** the Jakarta Declaration on leading health promotion into the 21st century adopted in 1997, which reaffirms that health is a basic human right and an indispensable factor in economic and social development;
9. **Expressing** its delight that the EI has been invited by UNAIDS to become one of the partners in the 1988 international campaign against AIDS, which targets people under the age of 24 years.

A. The Congress immediately calls upon governments:

1. **To adopt** and implement concerted global policies of health development;
2. **To strengthen** policies and resources to support the promotion of school health;
3. **To actively promote** a global policy of health education including the prevention of HIV/AIDS and STIs, above all by the implementation of proper sex education;
4. **To reinforce** and broaden the partnerships for health based on solidarity, transparency, respect and recognised and accepted ethical principles, particularly with the developing countries;
5. **To pay** specific attention to children and adolescents faced with difficult situations;
6. **To eliminate** all forms of discrimination at school and at work and all forms of exclusion which could be connected with the state of health or genetic characteristics.

B. The Congress calls upon the member organisations of Education International to:

1. **Play** an active role in the development of school health education policies in close collaboration with the ministries of education and health;
2. **To take** more account of the crucial role that the school system and workers in education as a whole can play, through health education, particularly with regard to the prevention of HIV/AIDS and STIs and the prevention of drug abuse;
3. **To become** more involved at every stage of the conception, implementation and evaluation of school health programmes;
4. **To take** action to ensure that all educational workers receive initial and in-service training, enabling them to promote health and health education;
5. **To combat** all forms of discrimination and exclusion affecting pupils, students or workers in education affected by HIV/AIDS or because of their genetic characteristics;
6. **To establish** or develop contacts with parents and health professionals at local or national level;
7. **To commit** themselves, especially in the framework of the “health promoting schools” networks, to make the school a healthy place that offers a reliable infrastructure that guarantees protection from diseases, violence and harmful substances.

C. Role of Education International:

EI should:

1. **Pursue and strengthen** its collaboration with the institutions within the United Nations system, particularly the WHO, UNAIDS and UNESCO;
2. **Actively participate** in international events relating to the promotion of health, health education and the prevention of HIV/AIDS, STIs and drugs, and in the organisation of regional and international consciousness-raising events aimed at the general public, workers in education and young people on questions relating to health education;
3. **Collect** as much information and informative material as possible on these questions and pass it on to member organisations;
4. **Pursue and strengthen** the introduction of themes on every aspect of health education in cooperation and development programmes.

"SCHOOL HEALTH AND HIV/AIDS PREVENTION"
EDUCATION INTERNATIONAL GLOBAL CONFERENCE
24-25 & 26 July 1995 Harare (Zimbabwe)

RECOMMENDATIONS ABOUT SCHOOL HEALTH/HIV-RELATED POLICY

HIV-related school health policy should address:

1. **Developing** HIV/AIDS education in the context of school health education, at all school levels, with a clear definition of responsibilities and roles;
2. **Creating** community-based programmes in collaboration with the education and health ministries to address the concerns of parents and other community leaders and to minimise resistance to HIV prevention efforts in schools;
3. **Ensuring** the rights and support of children, teachers and school personnel to participate in school programmes;
4. **Eliminating** discrimination, protecting the rights of school employees and ensuring confidentiality about health status;
5. **Requesting** governments to involve teacher's unions and members of the community in the formulation of policy;
6. **Coordinating** efforts among school staff and organisations at all levels;
7. **Securing** financial commitments for implementing the policy.

Union roles in support of the development and implementation of school health/HIV-related policy should include:

1. **Advocating** for legislation which would protect teachers addressing controversial topics like HIV/AIDS and sexuality education;
2. **Advocating** for governments to include HIV/AIDS education in national, district and local school curricula and to support these efforts;
3. **Ensuring** that HIV/AIDS is addressed both by public and private schools and in both formal and informal education systems;
4. **Raising** public awareness about the importance of HIV/AIDS education;
5. **Promoting** the collection of data that are needed for the development and implementation of policy;

6. **Investing** the union's human and financial resources in educating its leadership and membership about the importance of HIV/AIDS education, healthy sexual behaviours and human rights;
7. **Providing** model language for affiliate unions to use in collective bargaining in the development of HIV/AIDS policies;
8. **Collaborating** with the government to develop and revise HIV/AIDS policy;
9. **Issuing** guidelines to affiliates on implementing and monitoring government policies;
10. **Securing** technical and financial support of national and international organisations.

RECOMMENDATIONS ABOUT SCHOOL HEALTH/HIV-RELATED CURRICULA

The content and implementation of school health/HIV-related curricula should include:

1. **Integrating** HIV/AIDS education across the core curriculum, and in school health education.
2. **Providing** all students, at each grade level, with age- and gender-appropriate learning experiences, and with consideration to culture and religious beliefs.
3. **Involving** students, parents, teachers, curriculum developers, school personnel, representatives of ministries, persons living with HIV, and community leaders at key stages of curriculum development.
4. **Defining** curriculum objectives that reflect the needs of students, based on local assessments and relevant research.
5. **Ensuring** that curricula include:
 - a. accurate information about the prevention of HIV infection;
 - b. skills for responsible sexual behaviour;
 - c. learning experiences to promote compassion and appropriate care of persons who are infected with HIV.
6. **Ensuring** adequate provision of human, financial, and material resources.
7. **Ensuring** the use of effective teaching strategies in the design of the curricula.

Union roles for developing and implementing school health/HIV related curricula should include:

1. **Advocating** for the provision of HIV/AIDS curricula at local, regional and national level.
2. **Ensuring** union involvement in curriculum development.
3. **Promoting** public awareness of the need for HIV/AIDS curricula.
4. **Identifying** technical and financial resources for curriculum development and implementation within the National AIDS Plan.
5. **Participating** in monitoring implementation of HIV/AIDS curricula as specified in the National AIDS Plan.
6. **Including** education about HIV/AIDS and sexuality in training programmes of unions.
7. **Promoting** collaboration among EI affiliates and NGO'S, including networks of people living with HIV/AIDS, to exchange experiences and information about innovative programmes.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR PREPARING EDUCATION PERSONNEL TO PREVENT HIV INFECTION

The preparation of education personnel to help prevent HIV/AIDS and related discrimination should include:

1. **Establishing** pre- and in-service training for teachers at all grade levels, with appropriate training materials;
2. **Prioritising** training programmes for teachers who are committed to providing education about HIV/AIDS and sexuality;
3. **Designing** training based on local needs assessments and relevant research;
4. **Providing** financial and professional incentives to school personnel to participate in training;
5. **Providing** awareness training for all school employees;
6. **Providing** adequate time for on-going training;
7. **Training** on a wide variety of teaching methods including participatory learning, role play and drama.

Union roles to help prepare education personnel should include:

1. **Acting** as resources in training programmes;
2. **Advocating** for provision of training by government;
3. **Establishing** coordinated training programmes with national institutions, such as universities and NGO's, to train all school personnel;
4. **Providing** opportunities to exchange experiences, training programmes, materials and awareness sessions among affiliates;
5. **Ensuring** the participation of union affiliates in the design and provision of training programmes;
6. **Including** on-going training on rights, occupational safety and health in collective bargaining agreements;
7. **Guaranteeing** that necessary funding for HIV/AIDS training is provided as part of the National AIDS Plan resources;
8. **Joining** forces with other international, national, governmental and non-governmental organisations to maximise resources for training of school personnel;
9. **Promoting** EI regional trainings with the support from UN agencies;
10. **Including** in the budget of EI and affiliate unions, training funds for HIV/AIDS education and awareness;
11. **Developing** an EI code of professional ethics to protect students and school personnel from sexual abuse.

**HEALTH PROMOTION AND EDUCATION FOR THE PREVENTION
OF AIDS AND HEALTH-THREATENING BEHAVIOURS
RESOLUTION OF EDUCATION INTERNATIONAL FIRST WORLD CONGRESS
19-23 July 1995 Harare (Zimbabwe)**

The Education International First World Congress meeting in Harare (Zimbabwe) from 19 to 23 July 1995:

Deeply concerned with the rapid expansion of the AIDS pandemic in all regions, and particularly in Africa and Asia, as well as other threats to healthy human development around the globe;

Particularly troubled by the growing number of children, adolescents and women of child-bearing age infected by the HIV virus, and other threats to health;

Convinced that schools have a critical role to play in promoting the health of children, adolescents and school personnel in preventing HIV/AIDS and other health risks;

Noting with satisfaction the development by the UN of a common programme to fight the disease which will enable the various UN institutions to work more closely and better coordinate their efforts;

Adhering to the Declaration of Consensus on AIDS and Schools adopted at the World Consultation of Teachers' Unions held at UNESCO in April 1990;

Also noting with concern the increase in the use of intravenous/illegal drugs, a major factor in the transmission of AIDS;

Considering that these afflictions can be hazardous to the social, economic and even political stability of nations;

Considering that health status affects learning and academic success and that education should influence or modify attitudes and behaviours to allow children or adolescents to become the first persons responsible for their own health;

Considering that comprehensive school health programmes including instruction, health services and school environment can support healthy behaviours for children, adolescents and school personnel;

A. The Congress urgently asks States to:

Adopt and implement global, concerted policies to prevent the use of intravenous/illegal drugs;

Actively promote a comprehensive school health policy that includes prevention of HIV/AIDS notably by implementing effective sex education programmes;

Establish partnerships based on solidarity, particularly with developing countries;

Be specifically attentive to children, adolescents and women of childbearing age;

Develop policy and programmes on AIDS;

Improve the availability of choice and the use of protective means and methods;

Eliminate all forms of discrimination at school and the work place and all forms of exclusion by prohibiting, notably, unfair dismissals or pre-employment detection tests as well as all forms of exclusion by the marginalisation of groups considered to be “at risk”;

Better assess the negative effects of AIDS on social and economic development.

B. The Congress encourages EI member organisations to:

Give greater consideration to the crucial role that the school system and the entire educational staff can play to combat expansion of the disease by means of health education and education for the prevention of HIV/AIDS;

Play an active role in developing health education policies for school programmes in close collaboration with the ministries of education and health;

Become further involved in all stages of planning, implementation and assessment of programmes combating AIDS and sexually transmitted diseases;

Take action to ensure that all education personnel receive initial and in-service training on HIV and AIDS, and overall aspects of a comprehensive school health programme;

Combat all forms of discrimination and exclusion against students or educational staff infected by HIV/AIDS;

Create and develop relationships with organisations of health care professionals.

C. Role of Education International:

Continue and strengthen its collaboration with the institutions in the United Nations system particularly with WHO, UNESCO and ILO;

Actively participate in international meetings on the issue of comprehensive school health programmes and HIV prevention, and in the organisation of regional and world events aimed at heightening public awareness, especially among youth, with regard to health education issues;

Gather as much information as possible on these issues and address it to member organisations;

Introduce a theme on comprehensive school health programmes HIV/AIDS prevention in its cooperation and development programmes.

Moreover, the Congress applauds the joint Conference to be held from 24 to 26 July with WHO and UNESCO and fervently hopes that this congress will be the occasion of concrete proposals and real commitment of all those men and women who contribute to health education in the educational system.