

Third Education International – Public Services International
Sexual Diversity Forum
July 18 – 19, 2011

Cape Town, South Africa

'THE CAPE TOWN RECOMMENDATIONS'

At the EI-PSI Third Sexual Diversity Forum in Cape Town, South Africa, 150 delegates from 45 countries gathered together, starting on Nelson Mandela's 93rd birthday, to reflect on significant gains realized to advance lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) rights internationally, nationally and locally, and to identify challenges and next steps in our collective struggle for sexual diversity equality. Recognising the international momentum to protect the rights based on sexual orientation and gender identity, and recognising the diversity inherent in the LGBT communities, delegates shared experiences about the many forms of discrimination, violence and inequality we face, and focused on strategies to advance our rights in schools, in our workplaces, in our public services and in the broader society.

Recommendations to the EI and PSI Executive Boards:

The delegates of the Third EI- PSI Sexual Diversity Forum in Cape Town reaffirm the Porto Alegre Declaration and the recommendations of the Second International LGBT Forum in Vienna, recognize the progress made thus far in the implementation of these, and recommend that the Executive Boards of EI and PSI continue to pursue recommendations from both forums, with a special emphasis on the following areas:

At the international level:

1. Pursue opportunities for interventions with international agencies, including the United Nations (UN);
2. Provide trade union input to the UN Study of the High Commissioner for Human Rights regarding acts of violence and discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity, as specified in Resolution 17 of the UN Human Rights Council;
3. Encourage and coordinate the involvement of member organisations at the 19th session of the United Nations Human Rights Council;
4. Develop resources, reference tools and instruments to assist member organizations to intervene at the international level and to hold their governments to account on their actions to advance LGBT issues and rights;
5. Continue and enhance interactions within the International Labour Organizations (ILO) and other UN agencies;
6. Create and build solidarity alliances with civil society organisations and social movements to advance LGBT issues;
7. Insist that the Council of Global Unions *Quality Public Services Action Now* Campaign fully encompass and reflect issues of equality and diversity, including sexual diversity, as integral to achieving social justice, democracy and the eradication of poverty;

With respect to policy, education and training:

8. That both EI and PSI review LGBT policies to ensure they are reflective of the diverse LGBT communities and their challenges;
9. Share initiatives, information and best practices;

At the regional level:

10. Encourage member organizations of EI and PSI, through their regional structures, to convene joint regional meetings to strengthen and enhance activities relating to LGBT issues;
11. Encourage member organizations to build partnerships to advance LGBT issues in the education sector and in health, housing, police services and justice services, workplaces and in the greater society;

At the internal coordination level:

12. To establish mechanisms, through regular publications, websites and other social networking tools, to share information on LGBT issues, exchange best practices, share information about collective bargaining agreements and legal activities, reflective of the diverse LGBT communities;
13. To pursue these recommendations and priorities, it is recommended that a Steering Committee, comprised of an equal number of representatives from EI and PSI taking into account gender and regional balance, be established from this Forum in order to advise the two Executive Boards, assist with the implementation of follow up and evaluation of activities of recommendations from this Forum and support the organisation of the Fourth EI-PSI Sexual Diversity Forum to be held within the next three years.

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