

INTERNATIONAL SOLIDARITY WITH TEACHERS, STUDENTS AND PARENTS STRUGGLING TO PROTECT PUBLIC EDUCATION

WHEREAS, public education teachers' unions and students' educational opportunities are under attack around the world by governments, political parties and private financial and corporate interests, while some nations have yet to create free, equal quality educational systems; for example:

- In places such as the US, Greece and Puerto Rico, manufactured or real economic crisis and public debt become the excuse for both deep budget cuts and consequent restructuring of public education;
- In the US, there are attempts to privatize education through inadequate funding of public education, accompanied by the creation of charter schools, subcontracting, as well as systemic defunding of public higher education;
- In several nations, such as Mexico, student and teacher testing in primary and secondary schools, often with no proven benefit to either students or teachers, is being used to establish new forms of evaluation that threaten teachers' employment, promotion, and pay;
- In parts of Europe, formerly free or low-cost colleges and universities now charge tuition and fees that put education out of the reach of the poor and working class, make it impossible for some students to complete their education, or burden many students with debt.
- In higher education in the US and elsewhere, a large percentage of full-time, permanent positions have been replaced by contingent and low-paid adjunct positions, often without basic benefits;

WHEREAS we are increasingly witnessing the formation of progressive alliances between teachers, parents and students to defend public education:

RESOLVED, that the American Federation of Teachers (AFT) reaffirm its commitment to struggle against the accelerating erosion of free, quality, public education for all, and

RESOLVED, that the AFT call upon the Education International, of which it is a member, to work to promote solidarity among teachers across international borders by:

- 1) Providing economic, social and political analyses and educational materials to teachers' unions;**
- 2) Maximizing opportunities for rank-and-file solidarity events with locals across the world; and,**
- 3) Organizing economic and political action in defense of public education and against governments and corporate interests that threaten it.**

Barbara Bowen
President

Nivedita Majumdar
Secretary