



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

**TO ALL MEMBER ORGANISATIONS
TO THE EXECUTIVE BOARD
TO THE EI REGIONAL OFFICES**

20 January 2011

**Re: Education for Women and Girls
Global Action Week on Education for All: 2-8 May 2011**

Dear Colleagues,

The Global Campaign for Education (GCE) has chosen "Women and Girls' Education" as the theme for the Education for All Global Action Week (GAW) taking place on 2-8 May 2011, slightly later than usual. Education campaigners around the world will raise awareness about the Education of Women and Girls. The slogan is **It is a Right, Make it Right! - Education for Girls and Women NOW!** 2011 also marks the one hundredth anniversary of International Women's Day, with Education International (EI) holding its first World Women Conference.

The Campaign has been organized annually since 2001. Global Action Week is one of the highlights of GCE as a worldwide campaign. National coalitions prepare several months ahead to ensure that the Week has maximum impact on decision makers.

Women account for two thirds of the world's 774 million adult illiterates – a proportion that is unchanged over the past two decades. 72 million children – 54 per cent of them girls – are out of school. As you know, much remains to be done to keep the world on track to meet the goal of universal primary education. It is no wonder that many global events are highlighting education and associating it with women and girls. Education for women and girls is a key to achieving the MDGs in particular Goals two and three.

The main activity of the 9th Global Action Week will be a BIG STORY telling event where influential women, but also women and girls deprived of an education, will be able to share globally their stories about the importance of women and girls' education. Stories will be compiled into an international narrative showing the impact that education has had on their lives.

Please note that in 2011 there will be only **one** centralised GAW website, which is being developed by GCE. The idea for such a central, inclusive and comprehensive web portal is to represent the activities of all GCE partners. EI affiliates will have access to a subsection dedicated to teacher unions exclusively. All you need to do is to go to <http://www.globalactionweek.org/> and register online. You will be given an individual password. You may then proceed to describe the activities you have planned for GAW.

As in previous years, organisations from non-OECD countries are eligible to receive financial support or relevant campaign materials. Please write to globalactionweek@ei-ie.org to apply for a grant.

I also take this opportunity to remind organisations which received such funding in 2010 to transmit the narrative report of the activities that were undertaken and their impact on education in their country.

I will be writing to you again regarding Global Action Week soon after our World Women's Conference.

Yours sincerely,

Fred Van Leeuwen
General Secretary