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President
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General Secretary
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Brussels, 2 March 2020

TO ALL MEMBER ORGANISATIONS

International Women's Day (8 March): Launch of *Women in Education*

Dear colleagues,

2020 is an important year for women's rights. 25 years ago, in 1995, women from all around the globe met in Beijing for the United Nations Fourth World Conference on Women. One hundred and eighty-nine Member States signed the [Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action](#). An Education International delegation, including our President Susan Hopgood, was in Beijing and contributed to this historic achievement.

Twenty-five years on, the Beijing Platform for Action is still the world's most ambitious agenda for advancing women's rights.

As education unions, we represent both a profession dominated by women and a sector that is absolutely essential for changing mentalities, challenging gender norms and stereotypes, and empowering girls to shape the world. Last year at Congress, you adopted no fewer than three resolutions actively supporting women and girl's rights and fighting discrimination. When it was time to choose the members of our Executive Board, you elected more women than ever before. For the first time in our history, a majority of our leaders are now women.

The 25th anniversary of the Beijing Declaration is a fitting moment for us to leverage this momentum and use it to drive the global struggle to advance women's rights and achieve gender equality.

In celebration of International Women's Day, on March 8th we will launch *Women in Education* – a coordinated communication action spanning the entire year. We will look back on the progress made in the past 25 years, we will highlight the contribution of education systems and unions, and we will look to the future and what still needs to be done. Because no country in the world has fulfilled the agenda set in Beijing back in 1995.

Throughout 2020, *Women in Education* will feature your efforts to achieve gender equality in classrooms, in unions and beyond. From urging governments to ratify ILO Convention 190

on violence and harassment in the world of work, to drawing attention to the 131 million girls worldwide who are still not in school, *Women in Education* will bring all our work on gender equality under one umbrella and put it centre stage. We will use various international days across the year to celebrate women and girls and advance their rights. Blogs, podcasts, videos and pictures will bring your stories and the stories of your members to a global audience through all Education International communication channels.

Women in Education will have a dedicated visual identity and we are working to create templates that you can use to amplify the message. [All communication materials will be available for download here](#) in the runup to the launch.

March 8th is the first day of our *Women in Education* marathon. We look forward to working together to make 2020 and the 25th anniversary of the Beijing Platform for Action a source of renewed momentum for the women's rights movement in our schools, our unions and around the world.

In solidarity,



David Edwards
General Secretary

