



Circular GEN 5 (2015)

To all PSI affiliates
To EB and WOC members
To PSI staff, for information

File Reference: RP/SV/CHM
Contact Name: rights@world-psi.org

9 April 2015

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

Founding Meeting and Charter of Education Support and Cultural Workers Network

The affiliates of Public Services International represent hundreds of thousands of education support and cultural workers throughout the world, many of whom work without job security, fair compensation and benefits, or recognition that their services are vital to ensuring high quality public education and culture for all citizens. The jobs of these workers are on the frontlines of the privatization and casualization struggle within the education and cultural sector, and many of these workers face challenges in pursuing their basic freedom to form a union and collectively bargain their terms and conditions of service.

On 18-19 November 2014, PSI convened the founding meeting of the PSI Education Support and Cultural Workers Network (ESCW) to confront the challenges that these workers face throughout the world and in accordance with Resolution #33, approved at the PSI World Congress in Durban, South Africa, in late 2012.

Delegates discussed the challenges currently faced by working men and women in education support in different regions, how unions organize these workers and what strategies have been developed. Reports were presented on the effects of privatization, access to quality public services and on trade union rights and labour rights violations in the education support sector. The meeting was attended by delegates from Inter-America (USA, Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Puerto Rico, Uruguay), Africa (Uganda), Asia Pacific (South Korea (by Skype), Cook Islands) and Europe (France, UK (by Skype), Sweden and Norway).

The meeting adopted a Charter of the Network, here attached. The Charter foresees the creation of the Network's Coordinating Committee, which is nominated by the PSI General Secretary and appointed by the PSI Executive Board. The Coordinating Committee is comprised of ten (10) members, including at least two (2) representative of PSI affiliates in each region: Africa, Asia, Europe and the Americas. The term of the Coordinating Committee is consistent with the period between World Congresses.

At IAMRECON (Mexico, 21-24 April 2015) and AFRECON (23-25 September 2015), regional meetings of the Network are planned. Separate information is sent out in relation to these meetings.

A meeting of the Network's Coordinating Committee will be organized in Geneva, on Friday 29th May 2015.

In addition to the Charter of the Network, please also find the results of the survey attached that was carried out in 2014.

PSI continues to build its database for this new sector. Please do send the contact details of your officer in charge for further updates and joint actions to mark.langevin@world-psi.org.

PSI will also shortly launch the webpage of the Network. If you would like to share your pages, training materials, campaigns and more, please do forward to mark.langevin@world-psi.org.

We look forward to continue and deepen our cooperation with all of you.

In solidarity,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Rosa Pavanelli". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent initial "R" and a long, sweeping underline.

Rosa Pavanelli
PSI General Secretary