



## Educational Support and Cultural Workers Network (ESCW)

### **Purpose of brief:**

- To inform EB-148 of work in the sector.

### **Relates to:**

- ✓ Congress Resolution #33.

**Background:** This network is the concrete result of Resolution #33 presented by AFT and adopted during the last PSI Congress in Durban. At the founding meeting of the Education Support and Cultural Workers Network in Buenos Aires, Argentina, in November 2014, people started discussing a PSI survey for ESCW, sharing experiences and preparing a strategic plan to face the new challenges. The ESCW Coordinating Committee met on 29 May 2015 in Geneva. The Coordinating Committee selected Ruby Newbold (AFT, USA) as Chair, and Marcelo di Stefano (APUBA and CONTUA, Argentina) as Vice-Chair.

### **Discussion:**

The ESCW Coordinating Committee identified several priority issues to frame the work of the network, including:

- Fighting privatisations;
- Expand recognition of the Network, both within PSI and externally;
- Advocate for more professional development opportunities;
- Expand the network to include librarians, museum workers and other cultural workers;
- Defend the right to organise and the CBAs that are not respected in some countries;
- Fight for decent wages and decent working conditions for ESCW member affiliates;
- Tackle the casualisation of educational support and cultural work;
- Emphasise the role of quality and universally accessible education for society;
- Fight austerity and budget cuts.

The Coordinating Committee launched a “Tell Your Story” campaign to introduce Committee members to the PSI community through the ESCW newsletters. So far, two ESCW Newsletters have been published in English, French and Spanish and circulated among all PSI affiliates. A third newsletter is planned for April 2016.

Everline Aketch (NUEI, Uganda) and Sandra Vermuyten (PSI Head of Campaigns) represented PSI’s Education Support Network at a series of meetings in London with the NGO Consortium on Privatization in Education on 14-21 October 2015.

Throughout 2015, the ESCW Network has responded to numerous calls for international solidarity, from Ecuador to the United Kingdom. This work will continue and expand into 2016.

Currently, the Coordinating Committee is planning its next meeting to be scheduled later in 2016.

**Budget implications:** Nil

**Next steps:** Schedule the ESCW Network Coordinating Committee meeting for 2016 and approve the 2016/2017 work plan.

**It is recommended that EB-148:**

**1. ENDORSE the continued work of the ESCW.**

**YES / NO**

**Related documents:**

- <http://world-psi.org/en/charter-psi-education-support-and-cultural-workers-network>
- Newsletter No. 1 August 2015: <http://ow.ly/10oxeN>
- Newsletter No. 2 November 2015: <http://ow.ly/10ox9D>