



Taiwan  
12-14 November 2018

# Conclusions of EI's 11<sup>th</sup> Further and Higher Education and Research Conference

Education International's 11<sup>th</sup> Further and Higher Education and Research Conference met in Taipei, Taiwan from 12-14 November 2018. We wish to express our sincere gratitude to the hosts NTA for their warm welcome and generous hospitality.

The conference discussed and debated current issues affecting our sector, and reviewed the EI work programme since the 10<sup>th</sup> Conference held in Accra, Ghana in 2016.

**REAFFIRMING** that quality further and higher education and research rests upon the foundation of quality terms and conditions of employment, and respect for and enforcement of professional rights;

**RECALLING** that education and research is a public good and a human right that should be available and accessible to all on an equitable basis;

**NOTING** in particular the responsibility of states for the provision of further and higher education in fulfilment of Article 13, paragraph 1(c), of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (1966);

**CONSIDERING** that further and higher education and research institutions serve democracy and the common good of society through the preservation, advance, and dissemination of knowledge, and by fostering independent critical thinking and expression;

**ASSERTING** that these ends cannot be achieved without academic freedom, that is the right of academics, without restriction by prescribed doctrine, to freedom of teaching and discussion; freedom in carrying out research and disseminating and publishing the results thereof; freedom to express their opinion about the institution or system in which they work; and freedom to exercise their civil liberties without institutional or political reprisal;

**EXPRESSING** serious concern about recent political developments across many regions of the world, including the emergence of authoritarian governments, the weakening of and assault on democratic institutions and rights, and the fueling by many political leaders of xenophobia and racism:



**Conference Recommends that the EI Executive Board:**

- Reaffirm the importance of academic freedom in fostering robust democracies, and condemn instances where political pressures, managerial practices, and casualization are infringing academic freedom both individually and collectively.
- Agree to hold the 12<sup>th</sup> International Further and Higher Education and Research Conference in the North American and Caribbean Region in 2020.

**Conference Recommends that the EI Secretariat:**

- Coordinate efforts amongst affiliates through the Global Response Campaign to counter the privatisation and commercialisation of further and higher education and research, including:
  - Develop campaigns and advocacy based on the research EI has conducted into the impact of privatisation in the TVET sector;
  - Building upon the research commissioned by EI, target Elsevier's business practices which restrict the open exchange of scholarly material and knowledge.
- Work within the ILO to convene an experts meeting on terms and conditions of employment in the sector, with the aim of ensuring decent work and combatting precarious employment.
- Include concerns of the further and higher education sector about student evaluations of teaching and the use of research indicators in decision-making in EI's advocacy work on learning metrics.
- Provide support to affiliates to ensure governments and employers recognize and respect internationally recognized human and trade union rights.
- Monitor and intervene on threats to academic freedom.

**Conference Calls upon EI Affiliates to:**

- Share information, with the support of the EI Secretariat, on best practices in relation to membership organisation, mobilisation, and industrial and political action to defend and advance rights, improve working conditions, and counter precarious employment.
- Share information and research, with the support of the EI Secretariat, on alternatives to metrics and rankings used to assess teaching, research, and institutional performance.
- Strengthen solidarity campaigns and development cooperation initiatives between affiliates.