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Central Organisation of  
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All Pakistan Government  
School Teachers  
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Pakistan Workers  
Federation (PWF), Lahore

All Pakistan Trade Union  
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## WE STAND WITH THE CHILDREN AND TEACHERS OF PAKISTAN!

### A New Front in the Battle for Girls' Education

*The assassination of a teacher of an all-girls school in the Khyber tribal district on 25 March and the murder of the principal of the Baldia Town school in Karachi on 30 March, are a stark reminder to the world of the persistence of threats, intimidation, arson attacks and sometimes even murder that are the weapons used in a war against girls accessing educational opportunities. On-going attacks on teachers and schools have caused outrage in the international community, in Pakistan itself and among educators worldwide.*

- **Demand Safe and Secure Schools**

Last October, shocked by the attempted assassination of Malala Yousafzai and pressured by a petition signed by three million people, the Pakistani government agreed for the first time to legislate for compulsory free education and provided stipends for three million children. **Now authorities in Pakistan are under international pressure to deploy their security services to ensure the safety and protection of teachers and girls trying to go to school.** On 28 March the Secretary General of the United Nations, Mr. Ban Ki-moon, called for schools to be respected as safe and secure learning spaces and urged local and national authorities to redouble their efforts to provide security.

Last October's demonstrations were a spontaneous response from girls who identified with Malala's cause as she fought for her life in Birmingham's Queen Elizabeth Hospital. Now these girls are being joined in a high profile campaign by teachers themselves, determined, despite the threat to their lives, to stand up for girls' education and to campaign even in the places where there is the greatest threat to their own safety and security.

- **Stand up for Girls' Education and Teachers**

Achieving universal girls' education will be one of the major themes of meetings this month in Washington D.C., when the UN Secretary General and the President of the World Bank will meet leaders of countries that are off-track in securing universal primary education, including Pakistan, India and Bangladesh. Worried that the figure of 32 million girls still unable to get to primary school remains stubbornly high, they will consider plans to use legislation, investment incentives and social reform to move further and faster to full enrolment of girls by the end of 2015.

**But if the cultural discrimination that keeps girls from school is to end, then a popular movement that challenges the prejudices of the extremists is urgently needed.** It will build on an increasingly vocal public sentiment against the exclusion of girls. While over the past several years, Taliban militants in Pakistan have destroyed hundreds of schools, such as in the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Province, there is now a fight back under way, led by girls themselves and their teachers, who are no longer prepared to be part of a silent majority, unwilling to speak up for girls' education. Instead, they are becoming an assertive voice – on the streets, but also online - for the rights of girls to go to school.

- **Join A New Front**

Education International (EI) and the teachers' organizations of Pakistan have a proud record of promoting quality education for all and of defending teachers against abuse, intimidation and harassment. The International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC) and the trade union confederations of Pakistan are renowned for defending equal rights and social justice for all.

Their decision to campaign jointly in Pakistan for the rights of teachers to educate all children and for the rights of all children to attend school, opens a new front in the battle to ensure all girls receive an education.

While the debates of the 21st century are about the empowerment of girls and their right to develop their full potential, in some parts of the world the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century battles for basic rights – freedom from violence, child labour, child marriage, child trafficking and the right to an education free from violence – have still to be won.

But as the forthcoming joint campaign and the UN Secretary General's vocal support, both demonstrate, the voices for girls' education can no longer be silenced. And because of the movement that is now being forged at the grassroots level by girls demanding their human rights, and by teachers and workers organising in support of them, 2013 can now become the year in which the goal of universal girls' education becomes a reality.

**We demand from the Pakistani authorities to:**

- **Enable all girls to go to school**
- **Guarantee safe and secure schools**
- **Protect teachers' right to educate all children, girls and boys**

**We will launch in Karachi on 28 April:**

- **a Teachers' Scholarship Fund to Promote Girls' Education** in order to commemorate the brave teachers who have lost their lives in the struggle for girls' education.

**We call upon teachers, parents, students, the people of Pakistan,  
to sign our petition at [www.educationenvoy.org](http://www.educationenvoy.org) !**

UNITED NATIONS SPECIAL ENVOY FOR GLOBAL EDUCATION



(Gordon Brown)

EDUCATION INTERNATIONAL



(Fred van Leeuwen, General Secretary)

INTERNATIONAL TRADE UNION CONFEDERATION



(Sharan Burrow, General Secretary)

PAKISTAN TEACHERS ORGANIZATIONS'  
COUNCIL



(Khan Faraz Khan, President)

PAKISTAN WORKERS' FEDERATION



(Mohammad Zahoor Awan, General Secretary)

CENTRAL ORGANIZATION OF TEACHERS



(Shujat Ali, General Secretary)

ALL PAKISTAN TRADE UNION CONGRESS



(Shouket Ali, President)

ALL PAKISTAN GOVERNMENT  
SCHOOL TEACHERS ASSOCIATIONS



(Abrar Hussain, General Secretary)