

RESOLUTION ON PUBLIC EDUCATION (Supported by Binational Conference)

NAFTA, and its accompanying neoliberal economic model, has destroyed lives, degraded our societies, allowed for the extreme concentration of wealth, preyed on nature, left millions unemployed, lowered salaries, increased migration, and commodified education, health and social security.

We have concluded that what the United States spends in armaments and servicing endless debt, when we are facing a terrible economic crisis and crisis of civilization due to both climate change, and the destruction of the environment and life in general in cities and rural areas is a threat to our very lives.

In the educational sector, we are living through a global attack orchestrated by big transnational and domestic capital that began with budget cuts, a decrease in wages, and continued with restrictions on student fees, converting public schools into charter schools, culminating in an escalation of the war on labor and unions that seeks to eliminate workers' rights, benefits and to fire teachers. These attacks also restrict areas of knowledge in educational curriculum by imposing dehumanized and a-historical models; moreover, this global attack aims to completely eliminate the role of teachers, workers and students in defining educational goals in curricular matters.

We are convinced that the defense of public education today is also an integral part of the defense of social rights that include; health care, social welfare, housing, decent jobs, the right to land, the right to clean water, the right to a life free from violence, rights to democratic participation and a diverse community.

We recognize that while we are suffering the attacks on public education through a global strategy, all of our individual experiences indicate that the local, state, and national impacts of that hegemonic project must be made known, must be analyzed, and must also be openly and consciously rejected by unifying all regional social forces, including indigenous communities, workers, migrants, settlers, and farm workers who are already waging an international struggle for emancipation.

We declare our **opposition to free trade agreements**, to austerity politics, to budget cuts, to the mystifying role of digital technologies in our lives, and to the privatization of public education.

We repudiate the militarization of society, repression by the State and the attacks on teachers' unions and social organizations.

We demand **an end to foreign and domestic debt payments**, and a fiscal policy where financial capital – both national and global capital that implements the privatization of social wealth - pays the taxes that it must.

We recognize and claim education as a social right, that is to say to a critical education that is scientific and humanist, and for the emancipation of peoples; similarly, we defend educational communities, but considering the attack they are currently facing, we call for actions and mobilizations from all organizations and social movements to defend them.

We recognize the resistance by students and teachers for the defense of their rights and for the defense of public education in our three countries; we join the struggle of the democratic teachers union in Mexico for the repeal of the punitive education reform; we support the mobilizations of teachers in Chicago and California in defense of immigrants, for increasing social spending, and we celebrate the victories of the British Columbia Teachers' Federation in Canada that reinstated jobs, better educational budgets and the recognition of their collective bargaining agreement.

Proposals:

1. - We declare our opposition to the Free Trade Agreements and claim the right to build forms of regional and continental integration which preserve the social rights of our people, respect their sovereignty and contribute in solidarity in the economic development of our nations

2. - Generate an agenda of struggle around themes that allows us to articulate our strategies of resistance and construction of alternatives

3. - Develop trinational campaigns:

Against the neoliberal model of the plunder of social wealth and the rights of our people, for a new model of regional integration and cooperation.

Against the Wall and for the end of the persecution of migrants in the United States, for the defense of the right of any person to live in the country of their choice.

For social rights: decent work, education and culture, health, social security, housing.

In defense of public education, as a social right, which is indispensable in the construction of democratic societies, with social justice and for the emancipation of our people: education is not a commodity.

For democratic freedoms and against repression.

4. - To support the processes of struggle that are underway in each of our countries, against the privatization of education, demanding a stop to the business consortia and international financial institutions' participation in the educational system, in Mexico: *Mexicanos Primero, Fundación Slim, Pearson, Bill Gates*; against punitive educational reforms; for increasing educational budgets and the closure of public schools and the creation of charter schools, against the deprofessionalization of university education and the dismantling of their social commitment.

5. -To urgently implement forms of rapid, flexible, creative communication, which make materials accessible with deep ideas, but simple explanations.