



RED ESTRADO



Internacional de la Educación
para América Latina
IEAL

Declaration in defense of the quality of public education, emancipation, free of charge education and secular education!

The America continent lives in times of celebrations, setbacks and challenges. It has been two centuries since the first event of emancipation that united our Peoples and called us to the same continental project, the “Grande Patria” Great Fatherland.

In the first decades of the 21st century, peoples and governments of different countries in America converged on a common project to conquer the sovereignty of our continent. Faced with the processes of unity, local and transnational rights have consolidated blocs that do not cease in their efforts to reverse continental integration. This general offensive against the emancipation of peoples has been expressed in the direct attack on the rights won by the popular sectors over the years, thanks to the struggle of the workers and social movements and the action of democratic and popular governments

We understand that public education is, together with politics, economy and culture, one of the pillars on which every democratic project of country, which has as its starting point and horizon, the emancipation of peoples, must be supported. This forms the basis of our individual and collective hopes. That is why strengthening and guaranteeing education as a social and human right should be a priority for our States, our Societies and our Educational Communities.

We support and sympathize with the struggles that are unfolding throughout the continent in defense and reconstruction of public education, against the privatization and commercialization of education, neoliberal, neocolonial and neo-conservative educational reforms and evaluation systems based on standardized tests, whose sole purpose is to impose hegemonic principles of knowledge and reinforce meritocracy to justify social and educational inequality.

We reject restrictions on the democratic freedoms of educational communities, students and teachers, and the withdrawal of labor rights from education professionals and the closure of schools.

For all this, we express:

- By the requirement of full compliance with the responsibility of the State to guarantee the social right to public education. We oppose both the processes of privatization and commercialization of education in all its forms, and the

imposition of decentralization processes that deepen the fragmentation of the educational system and social inequality.

- For the valorization of teaching work as a collective work that requires recognition and adequate conditions for the construction of a democratic and a political-pedagogical project of emancipation.
- We condemn policies that ignore the value of teachers collectively, as well as attacking and harassing teachers, trade unions and student organizations. No educational policy can be implemented without the teachers, nor against the teachers and their educational communities.
- The need to build autonomous and contextualized pedagogical processes, rejecting the copy of pedagogical models exogenous, technocratic and far from the needs and interests of learners, educators and communities.
- Our respect for freedom of expression, repudiating the curtailment of the right of expression and the conservative disqualification of ideological and political debates, founding an active, critical and solidarity citizenship.

19th of September is the date of the birth of Paulo Freire, one of our main reference to a Latin American pedagogy. Freire perceived the educational process as a path to cultural, social and political liberation and stated that "it would be a naive attitude to expect the ruling classes to develop a form of education that would enable the dominated classes to perceive social injustices critically."

It is up to us to strengthen this critical thinking and to promote social emancipation decisively, building a society based on social justice.

We continue our struggle for an education inspired by emancipation ideals. Therefore, on the **19th September**, we call on student organizations, education unions, educators groups, political, cultural and social organizations that bet on pedagogical practice as a liberating praxis to manifest and express itself energetically and openly in **defense of the quality of public education, emancipation, free of charge education and secular education!**