

FE Y ALEGRÍA INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS
Madrid, Spain. 28th-30th September 2018
We Educate at the Borders, Fe y Alegría, Global Movement



Final Statement El Escorial
30th September 2018
El Escorial, Madrid

Delegations from 22 member countries of the International Fe y Alegría Federation, representatives from sister organizations, and guests from 11 countries held the XLVII International Fe y Alegría Federation Congress in El Escorial on 28th, 29th and 30th September, 2018.

We joyfully welcomed interest from new African and Asian countries to join the Fe y Alegría mission as this allows us to tackle new geographical and human frontiers.

A look at the world today shows us that the opportunities offered by globalization are unevenly distributed and that the negative consequences of it mainly affect the poor – people who are on the margins. This is precisely why, at Fe y Alegría, we feel the challenge created by these urgent realities of injustice and this pushes us to act in order to fulfil our mission.

We reflect on some of the exclusionary frontiers to which we feel we must respond. Fe y Alegría operates in contexts whose realities are marked by violence, where the right to quality education for millions of people continues to be violated: this is particularly true of the poorest, of people with different abilities, indigenous populations, those in rural areas, people deprived of freedom, girls and women. The socio-environmental crisis is causing the common house to break apart. Millions of people are forced to abandon their homes and this leads to displacement and increased vulnerability. Thousands of children and young people suffer – in silence – the trauma of mistreatment and abuse.

Fe y Alegría continually feels the need to move towards new frontiers and to work alongside invisible, silenced people, those who are left behind, those who are ignored by history. We have renewed our commitment to expand our geographical horizons, to put down roots in local communities while working ever more harmoniously with them as we enrich each other.

We champion a kind of education for personal and social transformation that fosters global citizenship; a kind of education that promotes change and is aimed at building free, democratic, equal societies that promote peace in which violence has no place. Fe y Alegría is a popular education movement with a clear political purpose. It works with people, communities and institutions to position itself as a social entity which contributes to the achievement of the common good.

We are committed to having a global impact in defending education as a common good, and to strengthening public systems and policies that guarantee human rights, social and educational justice; we do this by working in communities and with the participation of those involved in the transformation process.

We firmly believe that the path to transformation we seek today demands that we speak out. Working in such diverse, complex and changing contexts is impossible unless there is networking between ourselves and with others. Being a global movement today demands personal and institutional changes as well as a set of attitudes to make us feel we are a true body working towards this mission.

We need to encourage internal enthusiasm and respond creatively to the challenges we come up against. We must be bold and take risks and always be a step ahead. Fine-tuning our senses allows us not only to discern the silence of those who suffer, but also to see the signs of hope and its green shoots.

Our goal is to develop a new style of shared leadership, one that inspires horizons and processes, and is concerned less with executing tasks. In order to respond to the challenges of these new frontiers, let us continue to use insight and to work as a community in the way we make decisions and offer creative and pertinent answers.

Through our commitment to the mission of reconciliation and justice, our goal is to develop a system of teaching that involves caring for each person as part of their fraternal relationship with the community and with the common home. We all need to be accompanied and we can all accompany, be cared for and take care of others.

We believe that we must go further, fly farther and higher, continue putting down roots and strengthening them, inculturating ourselves in local communities with our heart beating as one to bring about a humanized globalization.

Let us be messengers of hope and continue fostering paths towards a dignified life for everyone via quality, integral education and social promotion.

El Escorial, 30th September, 2018.