

**Objectives and Rationale for An International Network of Scholar-Activists:  
A Global Community of Scholars and Teachers linked to the World Social Forum Process**

Over the past three years, scholars and teachers participating in the World Social Forum process have recognized that

- the work of teachers and researchers is vital to global efforts for social change;
- substantial numbers of scholars and teachers from a variety of disciplines routinely participate in the WSF process;
- as teachers and scholars, we face particular challenges and opportunities relating to the World Social Forum process;
- teachers and scholars need a supportive network to challenge neoliberal ideology and practice in our daily work experience;
- there is a general need for more coordinated international action to help advance the aims of the World Social Forum.

In this context, a group of scholars and teachers gathered in Porto Alegre, Brazil at the Fifth World Social Forum to begin the process of developing a network of teachers and scholars who are actively supporting the aims of the World Social Forum. At that meeting, the participants outlined three major areas of work in which teachers and scholars are most closely involved and identified specific actions that participants agreed to take in their home communities in order to carry forward the work of the World Social Forum.

The following chart summarizes the results of the 2005 meeting:

**Universities in the Global Justice Movement:  
Selected Proposals for Action from the 2005 World Social Forum**

<b>Supporting civil society</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sponsor public educational events--on and off campus;</li> <li>• Promote education for global citizenship;</li> <li>• Support recognized “global days of action” for peace and justice by supporting student participation in action or organizing teach-ins;</li> <li>• Foster enduring and mutually-respectful ties to community organizations;</li> <li>• Frame research questions and write analyses that speak to needs of under-represented groups;</li> </ul>
<b>Expanding access to knowledge and education</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support and promote the “copy-left” movement against the enclosure of the global knowledge commons;</li> <li>• Support efforts to expand access to academic journals in poor communities and countries;</li> <li>• Support campaigns to encourage public funding of universities and to limit increases in student tuition and fees;</li> <li>• Monitor and support efforts to protect public access to the internet;</li> </ul>
<b>Resisting neoliberalism on</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support labor struggles on campus for academic</li> </ul>

<p><b>campus</b></p>	<p>and non-academic workers;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Monitor university relations to private sector and establish code of ethics;</li> <li>• Promote fair labor policies on campus and by university subcontractors and licensees;</li> <li>• Promote ethical university investment standards;</li> <li>• Protect access to public spaces on campus by non-commercial interests</li> </ul>
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In response to these lessons, we propose the following structure to aid communication and coordination.

**DRAFT Mission Statement (July 10, 2006)**

The International Network of Scholar Activists (INoSA) <sup>+</sup>

The primary purpose of the organization is to facilitate and encourage the participation of teachers and scholars in the World Social Forum process. Unlike most associations of teachers/scholars, this network is both international and multi-disciplinary. The networks will:

- Promote discussions among members across disciplines and national boundaries;
- Facilitate coordinated action among network members;
- Serve as a liaison between network members and the WSF by providing information on the WSF and facilitating communications within and across networks;
- Facilitate networking among national, regional, and discipline-based associations whose work complements that of INoSA;
- Encourage scholarly attention to the WSF process;
- Encourage and facilitate teacher-scholar participation in the WSF and in regional, national, and local social forums;
- Promote coordination among teacher-scholars active in the WSF process;
- Facilitate efforts to build on discussions and proposals made at prior social forums;
- Aid in the socialization of young teacher-scholars into our profession.

<sup>+</sup>*This name was adopted after much discussion in 2005. We note, however, that there remain some national differences that complicate efforts to find a suitable name to reflect the group's work. In any case, the work of the organization is more important than its name.*