

## *To all comrades de la FIMEM*

from Teresita Garduño (Mexico)

I have some reflections to share with you . . .

The Pandemic has disrupted life on the Planet. Everything we have foreseen has been surpassed by this virus that has spread a mantle of death, anguish and confinement. facing this, we have reflected on the government vision regarding their health policies.

This has led us to think about the need to change the rules because the neoliberal policies of capitalism that in its eagerness to privatize have ignored the need to attend to the most vulnerable population.

We all have in our countries those heroes of solidarity who are all the health workers facing illness and in many cases at the price of their own lives. We have the obligation to fight, in each country, to insist on a change in the public policy towards equity and justice.

But certainly, the field in which we have a greater obligation is in our field of work which is education. It is in this field that the worst education policy decisions on children, young people and teachers in our countries have been made. In the case of Mexico, which is a replica of that of many other countries, the authorities have declared that, despite the pandemic, all the learning expected from the official programme will be achieved; there will be no loss in this school year.

To achieve this, they have proposed television and radio programs and, of course, work on the Internet, controlled by teachers through videoconferences and supported at home by parents. That is, the transfer from school to home by electronic means and the exercise of teaching duties by families, with a homework control that will make it possible to accredit the school year.

The house is not the school, above all when it is a small space where there is no private place as is the case of a large part of the population in our country. Parents are not the teachers, especially when more than half of the population in Mexico has informal jobs and will necessarily go out to seek daily sustenance. The school teacher is not the virtual teacher because he or she does not have the training or experience to work through the communication platforms or the experience in developing interactive materials; his or her work is face-to-face. Children at home are not students; they have multiple family tasks and distractions that are not present in the classroom. But in addition, in many Mexican homes there is no the Internet, there are no computers and the cell phone is taken by the father or mother when they go out or at most is given to the older brother or sister.

We have the drama, in this moment of the Pandemic, of children in public internets points that open clandestinely, to do their homework, exposing themselves in a brutal way to the contagion.

I believe that this is a fundamental reflection that we, the members of the FIMEM, have to make and commit ourselves to fight to make it heard in our countries. The GA must open this space of pronouncements to debates and to draw conclusions to implement them. We cannot be left out of this scenario, when it is clear to all of us that the Ministries and Secretariats of Education are once again making mistakes.

Of course, there are the usual matters of the Assembly, the presentation of members, the ratification or change of positions. But the pronouncement must be the first of all.

I share with you an article of mine that was published on [April 24 in La Jornada](#), a left-wing newspaper in our country. Couldn't every movement make a statement via the press to start moving consciences and power reserves?

A hug and count on me.

Teresita Garduño.