To: IUSY Member Organisations & IUSY Presidium  
Subject: Invitation to the IUSY Students Working Group  

Vienna, 16th April, 2020

Dear Comrades,

We have the pleasure to invite you to:

**IUSY STUDENT WORKING GROUP ONLINE MEETING**

“Students’ rights in times of crisis”

Online, Zoom platform 27th -29th April, 2020

**Overview**

What: Student Working Group  
When: 27th-29th April  
Where: Online meeting platform, ZOOM  
Age: 18-35 years  
Size: 25-30 people keeping the balance between the regions  
Deadline: 23th April

**Outline**

The current COVID-19 situation has made us realise how much a crisis situation that forces governments to declare a state of emergency can influence student’s lives and rights. The Student Working Group 2020 will bring together young activists of IUSY member organisations from all 7 regions, online. The aim of the meeting is to learn on the implications of crisis situations on basic human rights and students rights and enhance student international solidarity. The meeting will offer a platform to discuss how the situation has affected student life in the regions, give space to engage in a dialogue on common struggles and obstacles, and work together to come up with strategies to defend, Advocate and Campaign for students rights in crisis situations.

**Theme**

The right to education was established in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in 1948 and has been affirmed in United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) Convention against Discrimination in Education (1960), the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (1966), the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (1981) and the Convention on the rights of the child (1989). Crisis situations prompt governments under the state of emergency to take security measures that might restrict the enjoyment of some of these rights. However these measures must be proportionate, necessary and non-discriminatory. The UN High Commissioner for Human Rights’ observations that even necessary and proportionate COVID-19 emergency measures would have “serious repercussions on people’s lives”
Under the COVID-19 outbreak many countries have closed schools, disrupting the learning and education of hundreds of millions of students. The government agencies should step in to provide clear and accurate public health information.

UNESCO has recommended that states “adopt a variety of hi-tech, low-tech and no tech solutions to assure the continuity of learning.” Many countries have the capacity to use online learning platforms to complement this situation, and many students have access to the technological resources needed. However, not all countries, communities, families, or social groups have adequate internet access, and many countries suffer from government-led internet shutdowns, as well as severe breaches of access to information. Often student voices are not taken in consideration in the consultations to affront emergency situations. We all have urgent voices to raise in State dialogues over our human rights. In addition, student organisations are a great creative force to come up with creative and initiatives to face the circumstances, act and defend the aforementioned rights.

With best regards,

Johanna Ortega  
IUSY President

Ana Pirtskhalava  
IUSY Secretary General

**Participant’s profile**

Please note that the event must be gender-balanced and therefore the selection criteria will follow this premise in order to ensure such balance. Both the IUSY statues and the Global Project require gender balance.

Participants must be able to attend the entire programme of the seminar and be active throughout the year after the meeting. This is due to that the work of the Working Group will be carried out throughout the year in line with the working plan.

It’s preferable that participants have experience in Students issues and are interested in human rights.

All participants must be aged 18-35 years old, with no exceptions.
How to apply
Participants must apply by filling the registration form online at https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfwkbzTpy0x5PiJdm-Vx4lyBxEJ3YxA51ZkyCwC429r4H7MA/viewform by Thursday 23 April 2018. All applicants will receive the outcome of their application by the end of the day.

Online Meeting
The meeting will take place online, through the online platform Zoom. Participants once confirmed their participation will receive a link and an entry code to the meeting room. The event will take place during three days and will offer some offline activities as well as reflexion time. We encourage the participants to remain active, engaged and available during the time of the on-going activity.

Contact
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