

Press Release
Thursday 26th August 2004

NUT organises Commonwealth Education Ministers' Conference

A scheme to protect overseas teachers from exploitation when they come to Britain and other developed countries, is to be drawn up by education ministers from 27 commonwealth countries at a conference next week (30 August to 2 September) organised and hosted by the National Union of Teachers.

The conference will also look at how developing Commonwealth countries can maintain their teaching force when they are being enticed away to plug the gaps in teacher supply in developed countries.

The problem is particularly intense in Africa where to achieve the Millenium Development Goal of universal primary education by 2015, an extra five million teachers are needed, yet Africa is currently a net exporter of teaching staff.

Steve Sinnott, NUT General Secretary, said: "Teachers welcome the initiative to develop ethical practices that local education authorities and teacher recruitment agencies must be made to follow. A protocol outlining an ethical position can make a real contribution to ensuring that the education of children across the world is protected.

"Past failures to tackle teacher shortages in developed countries, such as the UK, has damaged vulnerable education systems across the world. Teachers have been poached to come to the UK undermining children's education in many small states."

A press conference will be held at Stoke Rochford Hall, Nr Grantham at 3.45 on Wednesday 1 September.

For more information please [click here](#)