

SUPPORTING THE EDUCATION OF AFGHANISTAN'S CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE: A CALL TO ACTION

Following the Taliban's return to power in Afghanistan, we have grave concerns for the human rights of Afghan citizens, especially women, girls, people with disabilities, and ethnic and religious minorities.

We are particularly concerned about the right to education.

Whilst the international community must ensure the re-establishment of the conditions that guarantee the full rule of law and the respect of human rights and that those in power in Afghanistan respect the right to education, permission to operate and attend educational facilities alone will not be enough. The fundamental freedoms of women, girls, and minority and ethnic groups must be respected and protected by all parties, including their freedoms of movement, opinion, expression, and identity.

Protecting the right to education of Afghanistan's population will require a significant increase in coordinated international support.

Supportive of the effort by Italy, acting as G20 president, to develop a common international strategy in response to the crisis in Afghanistan, we urge G20 member states to ensure the strategy includes a plan for education and lifelong learning for all.

That plan should be based on five commitments:

- Ensuring the right to education and lifelong learning for all, based on the standards set by international human rights law.
- Increasing humanitarian and development assistance, provided to the UN, international agencies, national organizations and communities, to ensure formal schools, community-based education programs, colleges, and universities with students of all genders, abilities, and backgrounds continue to operate and provide quality, inclusive education.
- Providing support to host countries for the education of both existing and newly arriving refugee children and youth.
- Increasing funding for tertiary study overseas, especially for women and people with disabilities.
- Ensuring that a fundamental condition of any working relationship with the regime is that it upholds the right to education.

We urge the governments of the G20 to commission the relevant UN agencies to develop, fund, and implement a plan to protect and promote education for Afghan children, especially girls and people with disabilities, both in Afghanistan and those who have fled their country seeking protection. It is critical to ensure full participation and consultation of teachers, education support professionals, parents, and learners themselves in developing a comprehensive education plan.

ENDORSED BY THE FOLLOWING CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANISATIONS:



FULL LIST OF ENDORSING ORGANISATIONS:

1. International Parliamentary Network for Education (IPNEd)
2. Finn Church Aid
3. Global Campaign for Education
4. Global Citizen
5. International Rescue Committee
6. Inter-agency Network for Education in Emergencies
7. Jesuit Refugee Service
8. Malala Fund
9. Oxfam
10. Plan International
11. Save the Children
12. Theirworld
13. World Vision International
14. CIFA Onlus
15. Movimento per l'Autosviluppo, l'Interscambio e la Solidarietà (M.A.I.S)
16. RE.TE ONG
17. Send My Friend to School
18. Campagna Globale per l'Educazione (Global Campaign for Education Italy)
19. Coalition Éducation (Global Campaign for Education France)
20. Globale Bildungskampagne (Global Campaign for Education Germany)
21. Global Campaign for Education - The Netherlands
22. Global Campaign For Education – US (GCE-US)
23. Educate the Children-Nepal
24. Linda Norgrove Foundation
25. HealthProm
26. National Education Union
27. NASUWT – The Teachers' Union
28. RESULTS Canada
29. RESULTS UK
30. Centre for Afghanistan Policy Studies (CAPS)
31. 100 Million
32. All Africa Students' Union
33. AWA Initiative (A Well Informed Adolescent Initiative), Nigeria
34. Commonwealth Children & Youth Disability Network
35. Commonwealth Students' Association
36. European Students' Union
37. Global Student Forum
38. Empowered African Child Initiative, Nigeria.
39. Future Resilience and Development Foundation, Nigeria (FRAD)
40. HELP Foundation for Students, Nigeria
41. Hope for Nigeria Education Fund
42. I CAN South Sudan, Uganda and South Sudan
43. iFix Initiative, South Sudan
44. Include Me TOO, UK
45. Kosovar Youth Council
46. No Box Initiative, Nigeria
47. Rescue Health Initiative Nigeria,
48. Teach for Somalia
49. Teach MUDA – Street2School Initiative, Nigeria
50. Youth and Women for Opportunities, Uganda
51. Youth Institution for Education, Côte d'Ivoire