Take Action: Write a letter to the editor supporting global education

“One child, one teacher, one book, one pen can change the world.”
— Malala Yousafzai

As the world reels from the tragic kidnapping of schoolgirls in Nigeria, everyone asks “what can we do?” There is no simple answer. But this June the United States government has the chance to help build a world where the likelihood of these tragedies is decreased: a world where all children can go to school and learn regardless of where they live or who they are.

The Global Partnership for Education is helping build education systems that work for the most vulnerable children. By committing just $250 million over two years to the Global Partnership, the Obama Administration could be part of a shared global plan to support quality education for 29 million more children. Will President Obama and USAID Administrator Shah do what it takes for those 29 million girls and boys? Girls are showing incredible courage just to go to school, and the U.S. should support them in June. Your letter to the editor can help push them in the right direction.

Why invest in global education? And why now?

Kids in the United States may already be counting down the weeks until summer break, but worldwide a staggering 57 million children have never stepped foot in a classroom in the first place. Perhaps even more disturbing, 2 out of every 5 kids can’t read a basic sentence or do even the simplest math.

As we look to graduation day and the start of summer in our own communities, the U.S. can help ensure the poorest and hardest-to-reach children worldwide can also go to school and learn. We’ve veered off course in our pursuit of quality education for all, but this summer we have the chance to get back on track when donors come together to pledge support for the Global Partnership for Education (GPE), the only international partnership dedicated to quality education for all.

The Global Partnership has already helped support quality education for 22 million children in many of the world’s poorest countries. This June, the Global Partnership aims to raise $3.5 billion to support education for 29 million more of the poorest and most vulnerable children worldwide. If GPE raises $3.5 billion from donors, it would unlock an additional $16 billion from developing country governments.

Education radically changes the course of a child’s life, but the benefits extend far beyond one girl or boy. Education helps create economic growth, healthier communities, and a more secure world for all of us.

The news from Nigeria makes painfully clear just how serious the global education crisis is. The U.S. must stand with the world’s children by committing $250 million over two years to the Global Partnership for Education.

Writing a Letter to the Editor

- Follow the guidelines for letters to the editor provided by your local paper.
- Make sure your letter is compelling, concise (100–200 words maximum), and tailored to your local community by using a “hook” from a local story, as in the sample letter below.
- Try using the EPIC format (see sample letter below). The letters that are most likely to be published respond directly to what’s already been covered in the paper and what’s happening in your community. Scan the editorial and news pages for any discussion of education locally, and then use your letter to help readers and editors make the connection to global education.
Engage

Thank you for the attention paid to the issue of global education. It was absolutely haunting to read in Nicholas Kristof’s May 6 column, “Girls deserve rescue effort now,” that, “These girls, ages 15 to 18 and Christians and Muslims alike, knew the risks of seeking an education.” Knew the risks of seeking an education?

Problem

When will the bravery of these girls and so many like them be matched by our elected officials in Washington, who have the power to prioritize education for all children barred from or risking their lives for educational opportunities?

Inform about the solution

Former Secretary of Defense Robert Gates once said, “Development is a lot cheaper than sending soldiers.” The U.S. should stand behind the Global Partnership for Education, a multilateral organization working to assist developing countries in establishing sustainable national educational plans and specifically targeting conflict regions.

Call to action!

Pledging $250 million over two years would show the world we’re serious about getting every single child – including every single girl – into a classroom and safely learning, no matter where in the world they live.

Getting Published

Once your letter is finished, have someone read it over, then submit it according to the requirements of your paper. Get in the habit of writing any time something catches your eye in the paper. Not every letter gets published every time—but the more you send, the more likely you are to meet with success!

Once You’re Published

If your letter gets published, amplify its impact by sending a copy to your members of Congress and sharing it on social media. Be sure to then send a digital copy to RESULTS staff:

Lisa Marchal, Senior Global Grassroots Associate, lmarchal@results.org
Colin Smith, Deputy Director of Communications, csmith@results.org

More on the Global Partnership for Education

The Global Partnership for Education plays a unique role in global education, convening the necessary partners, including donors, developing country governments, and civil society, to build lasting education systems in poor and conflict-affected countries.

By focusing on the whole education system instead of just the separate elements that make it up, the Global Partnership’s model has worked in places like Somalia and the Democratic Republic of the Congo, where governments are now implementing their first national education plans. Demand for Global Partnership support is on the rise as countries see its success catalyzing long-term, effective education systems.

With more than 90 percent of education financing today coming from developing country governments themselves, the Global Partnership’s June pledging conference gives the U.S. and other donors the opportunity to bridge the gaps that remain in poor and conflict-affected countries.

Need more background information to write your letter? Visit www.results.org/issues/globalpartnership for letter writing tips and to learn more about the Global Partnership for Education.