

# YOUTH RESOLUTION

Malala Day  
July 12th 2013

## The Education We Want

Young people's call for a response  
to the education emergency

Today, fifty-seven million children and young people are denied the right to education.

World leaders, governments, civil society and the global community must take decisive action on education now or the results will be devastating: the largest generation of young people in human history will be exposed to unemployment, poor health, civil unrest and increased vulnerability.

If world leaders do not take urgent action, we will break the Millennium Development Goal promise of universal education by 2015. We will fail children and young people.

Education is not only a fundamental human right, but the most effective way to alleviate poverty. The world cannot afford the repercussions of failing to educate future generations. Education is an entitlement for all young people – and a sound investment, too.



Malala Yousafzai: the fearless Pakistani schoolgirl has come to symbolize the campaign for universal education



**Global Education First Initiative**

The UN Secretary-General's Global Initiative on Education



**A World at School**

# THE YOUNG PEOPLE OF THE WORLD CALL ON ALL GOVERNMENTS, INDIVIDUALS AND ORGANIZATIONS THAT PLAN, IMPLEMENT AND DELIVER EDUCATION TO:

**1** Pass a Security Council resolution that recognizes the global education crisis and its link to the rights of children, and outlines concrete steps to address education and security, particularly for girls and in emergency contexts.

**2** Put EVERY child in school.

- Work urgently and collaborate with partners to ensure all children have access to quality education, including the 57 million excluded from primary school, the 69 million shut out of secondary school, and the hundreds of millions more who are in school but not learning.

- Provide at least nine years of quality education for every child, and equip all young people with the resources, infrastructure, environment and professional support they need to learn and thrive.

**3** Address the special situations of girls and other marginalized groups.

- Guarantee gender equality by recognizing and respecting the equal rights and potential of all girls and boys. Take concrete steps to enable and support girls as active, educated and productive citizens of their countries and of the world.

- Create environments that cater to the unique needs of girls, and tackle social barriers and gender expectations which prevent girls from confidently and safely participating in school.

- Place particular emphasis on education for marginalized children, whose absence from the classroom has not yet been effectively addressed. Governments must remove barriers to education and address the needs of the most marginalized. Poorer children; orphans; child labourers and slaves; those living in disadvantaged areas, in informal settlements or on the street; pregnant girls and girls with their own children; children with disabilities; indigenous children; those with HIV/AIDS; lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered young people; and those affected by emergencies and conflict, are as entitled to a quality and inclusive education as every other child.

**4** Ensure young people learn and are prepared for life and the workforce.

- Develop and promote non-formal and citizenship education to encourage life-long learning to develop life skills and values. Education should focus on the important realities of life, aim to reduce extremism and encourage political participation, as well as promote equality, intercultural learning and respect.

# WORLD CALL INDIVIDUALS AND FINANCE AND

- Connect learning more directly with the labor market to ensure that all children and young people can seek employment after education. To close the youth unemployment gap, internships, volunteering and mentorships – as well as ways to gain formal accreditation and qualifications through work programs – should be put into place by all governments.
- Support the availability and improvement of vocational education and training. Governments must recognize the benefits of practical training and ensure it complements academic education to sustain existing industries and foster innovation. Vocational education should be worthwhile, conducted safely and properly documented.
- Recruit and rigorously train teachers, whose work should be of the highest standards and professionalism. Teachers should be in attendance and available to all of their students, and protect their rights. Teachers must be adequately paid, to encourage more people to enter the profession and close the trained-teacher gap.
- Ensure young people transition from primary and secondary education, so that their ambitions can flourish and their potential be fulfilled.

**5** Increase education funding and ensure accountability.

- National governments and donor countries must invest more in education. All governments should target funding to close spending gaps and counter disadvantages for the most marginalized.
- Governments must prevent financial wastage through inefficiency or corruption.
- Ensure sustainable investment in infrastructure, facilities and resources for learning, including books, new technologies and the Internet.
- Implement monitoring programs which evaluate the standard of education, promote consistency and quality, and identify areas where teachers and schools can improve. Schools must respond quickly, and must also review their own performance and improve services. There must be data to show that children are making progress.

**6** Guarantee the voice of young people in shaping education.

- Engage young people through processes that allow them to influence the direction of their own education, school culture and curriculum. Students must have a way to raise concerns, report inappropriate behavior or seek a resolution to a grievance without prejudice and in confidence.

These steps will immensely improve the quality of the world's education systems and increase the number of young people who can access the right to learn.

These steps will make the world a more just, educated and productive place – one where no child is left behind.

We, the young people of the world, call on all governments to deliver.

This youth resolution was written by the Youth Advocacy Group. This is a group of 15 young people from around the world who strengthen momentum and increase support for the United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon's Global Education First Initiative, launched in September 2012. The drafting of the resolution included consultation both on and offline with young people from more than 45 countries. It will be circulated to all Member States of the United Nations after Malala Day on July 12th 2013.



The future is theirs: members of the Youth Advocacy Group meet UN Special Envoy for Global Education Gordon Brown (centre) in London, December 2012 (Plan/ Geoff Caddick/ PA)



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