Women MPs of the world conference: strengthening visibility, driving change

Thursday 8 November 2018, House of Commons, Westminster

Group H: Breaking barriers to ensure at least 12 years of quality education for all girls
Committee Room 14

This session will look at how MPs can champion at least 12 years of quality education for all girls.

Objectives

- Establish concrete actions MPs can take forward to break down barriers to girls’ education and provide the opportunity for at least 12 years of quality education and learning for all girls by 2030; including targeting the most marginalised girls particularly poor rural girls, girls with disabilities and those affected by conflict and crisis.
- Explore how education system reform can drive up quality and address the needs of all learners. This includes exploring how to develop, implement and monitor gender-responsive education plans, policies and budgets; and how to make these public by reporting back on progress on education quality and equality, using data as a lever for change.

Key questions for discussion

- How can MPs use their unique role to champion girls’ education?
- What examples of achievements and good practice can we learn from?
- How can we overcome the barriers outlined above?
- How can we be best hold governments to account for their commitments to girls’ education, including those made at CHOGM, the G7 and UNGA?
- How can we ensure girls education investments deliver learning outcomes, ensure girls transition through primary and secondary school and the funding leverages new partnerships and financing for girls’ education?
- How can we make progress towards SDG target 4.4, eliminating gender disparities in education?

Please bring examples from your country, highlighting the successes as well as the learning that can be shared.

Globally, 130.9 million girls remain out of school. Even those who are in school often are not mastering basic literacy and numeracy skills by the end of primary and do not progress on to secondary school. Globally, 387 million children (56%) are not on track to learn to read by the end of primary. The most marginalised girls face many barriers exacerbating learning inequalities:

- **Poverty and geography matter**: Fewer than 1 in 20 poor, rural girls in Sub-Saharan Africa are on track to complete secondary school.
- **Age matters**: Adolescent girls face a disproportionate burden of domestic work, and greater risk of violence, early marriage and early pregnancy. Lack of availability and cost of secondary education limits progression.
- **School-related gender-based violence**: affecting 246 million girls and boys every year, remains a significant problem in most countries.
- **Girls with disabilities face double discrimination**: whilst the overall literacy rate for persons with disabilities is 3%, it is just 1% for women and girls.
- **Conflict makes it even tougher for girls at the time they most need support**: girls are 2.5 times more likely to be out of school in conflict zones.

Girls have huge potential, energy and ambition to change their lives and lead in their communities, societies and economies. This can only happen when they are equipped with a quality education helping them learn and succeed in jobs of the future.

Additional reading

Outcome Statement of the Commonwealth Women’s Forum 2018
Charlevoix Declaration on Quality Education for Girls, Adolescent Girls and Women in Developing Countries
UNGA 2018 Joint-Statement-12-years-to-break-barriers-and-leave-no-girl-behind