

JOIN UP

education rights now!



GCE Global Action Week 23 – 29 April 2007
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IRISH COALITION FOR THE
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“IF ALL THE WORLD’S CHILDREN JOIN TOGETHER

THEY CAN BE MORE POWERFUL THAN ANY GOVERNMENT”

Nelson Mandela

The Global Campaign for Education is a global coalition of child rights activists, teachers’ unions and development organisations from around the world united in their determination to make the right to education a reality for all.

See www.campaignforeducation.org
for resources and information!
or www.campaignforeducation.ie

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JOIN UP – Education Rights Now!

A basic education is a right inherent to being human, each child’s birthright and thus constitutes an end in itself. However, education is also a means to an end: it is required to ensure all people can live in a dignified manner and participate effectively in society. It also enables human beings to exercise all the other human rights (enshrined in the **1948 *Universal Declaration of Human Rights***).

The Education For All (EFA) Goals, that were reaffirmed at the Dakar World Education Forum in 2000, were unusual in recognising the **right to education**:

...all children, young people and adults have the human right to benefit from an education that will meet their basic learning needs...Ensuring that by 2015 all children...have access to and complete free and compulsory primary education of good quality’.

Why the focus on the right to education in 2007?

This year, 2007, is crucial as the mid-point towards the achievement of the Six Education For All goals by 2015:

- Expand early childhood care and education
- Ensure all children, complete free and compulsory, good quality primary education
- Ensure equal access to learning and life-skills for adults and young people
- Ensure a 50% improvement in adult literacy rates
- Achieve gender parity in education by 2005, gender equality by 2015
- Improve the quality of education

The focus on **education as a human right** leads the campaign to promote the entire Education For All agenda.

Rather than being a distant ideal these rights need to be converted into a reality now – and the EFA goals give the deadline.

What are the leaders going to do about it NOW!

A rights-based approach means leaders **must** take action to realise ALL 6 EFA goals *together* or as a chain.

Previous Global Action Week campaigns have shown that if we unite with one voice, we can make a powerful impact and force our governments to take action before it is too late. The EFA goals must be achieved and the leaders of the world should not let another generation of children and adults go without an education because:

- Education is a fundamental inherent human right
- 2007 is the mid way point for the EFA goals and at current rates of progress these are not going to be met. We have already missed the first target of getting equal numbers of girls as boys into school by 2005.
- 80 million children are still out of school, and almost a billion adults are illiterate. Pre-primary education is too often the privilege of the wealthy few.

We need universal Education For All NOW!

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Poor countries should:

- Offer a legally binding guarantee that education shall be free and compulsory for all, using institutions and the media to communicate this right to teachers, parents, children and the general public
- As a matter of urgency, agree and implement an integrated long term education strategy to achieve the full Education For All agenda
- Demonstrate political commitment by making available adequate domestic financing, reaching the following minimum targets:
- Government spending on education to be 6% of GNP, with at least half of this amount being for basic education
- Allocation of 20% of budgets to education

Rich countries should:

- Fully fund the global external financing gap for the achievement of Education For All, giving \$15-16 billion per annum in Overseas Development Assistance by 2009
- Ensure that all nations, but especially low-income countries, have support for long-term strategies by providing high-quality, predictable aid, including for recurrent costs, through the Education For All Fast Track Initiative
- End exclusion and discrimination within their own education systems, ensuring an equal chance for every child

International institutions should:

- Allow poor countries sufficient fiscal space to enable long-term sustainable investment in public education systems
- Ensure that public sector wage caps do not prevent recruitment of urgently-needed teachers and other public sector workers

JOIN UP

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In 2007 from January through to June - with the main focus as ever on Global Action Week - campaigners will be joining up across the world to form the world's longest-ever chain asking for education.

The main focus for the 2007 **JOIN UP – Education Rights Now!** activities will be centred on the concept of 'chains'. These can either be represented through artwork such as **paper cut-outs or chains of real people joining hands.**

There are three global stages that make up the **JOIN UP – Education Rights Now!** challenge:

- Gather evidence on the right to education
- Invite officials to participate and join the chain
- JOIN UP to create the world's largest-ever chain

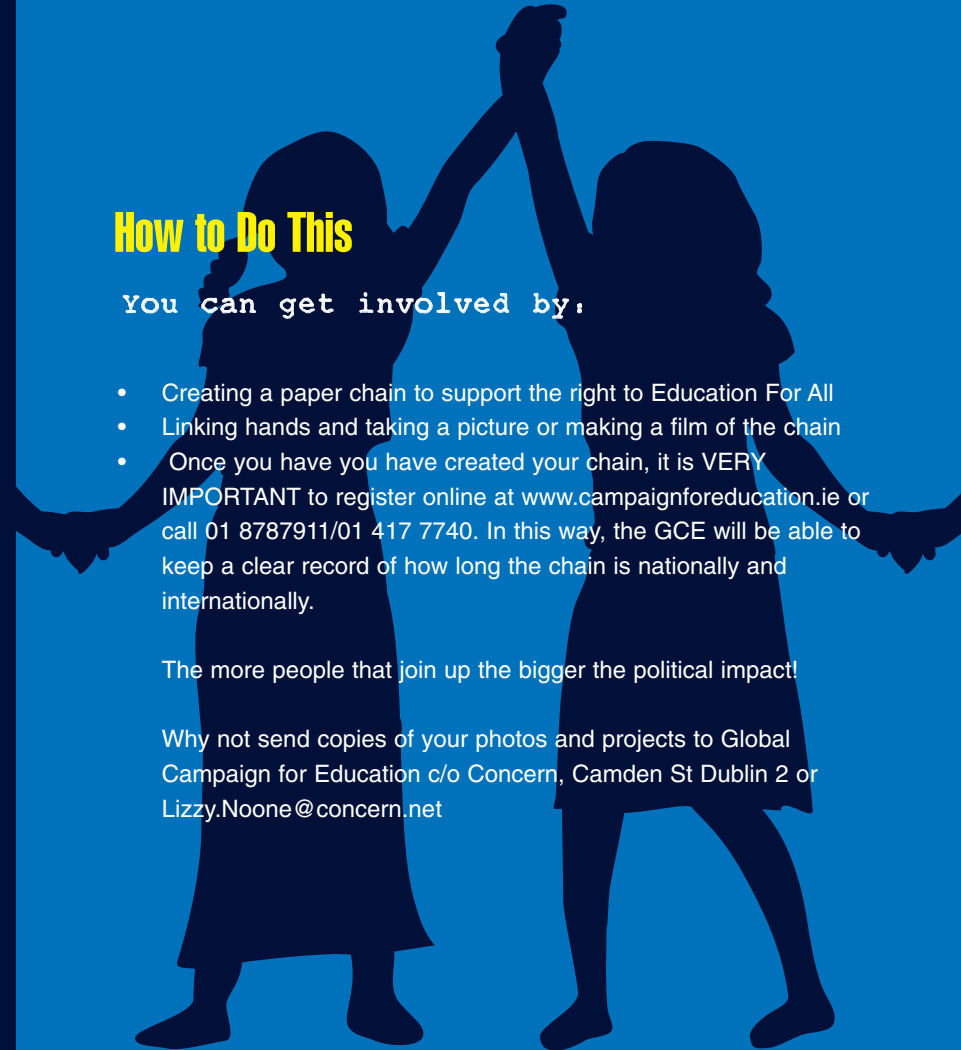
How to Do This

You can get involved by:

- Creating a paper chain to support the right to Education For All
- Linking hands and taking a picture or making a film of the chain
- Once you have you have created your chain, it is **VERY IMPORTANT** to register online at www.campaignforeducation.ie or call 01 8787911/01 417 7740. In this way, the GCE will be able to keep a clear record of how long the chain is nationally and internationally.

The more people that join up the bigger the political impact!

Why not send copies of your photos and projects to Global Campaign for Education c/o Concern, Camden St Dublin 2 or Lizzy.Noone@concern.net



Members of the Irish Coalition for GCE

ActionAid Ireland

Aidlink

Association of Secondary Teachers Ireland, ASTI

Concern Worldwide

Irish Congress of Trade Unions, ICTU

Irish National Teachers' Organisation, INTO

National Youth Council of Ireland

Oxfam Ireland

Sightsavers International

Teachers' Union of Ireland, TUI

Union of Secondary Students

Universal Declaration of Human Rights 1948

Article 26. (1) Everyone has the right to education.