

IPNEd-GCPEA webinar:

The role of parliamentarians in strengthening the protection of education from attack

Date: Thursday 14 October 2021

Time: 08:00 – 09:00 EDT | 12:00 – 13:00 GMT | 14:00 – 15:00 CEST | 15:00 – 16:00 EAT

Location: https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_Xia1FcSaS7yTzp811QH12A

Audience to register using above Zoom link

Speakers will be issued with a personalised Zoom link unique to them

Simultaneous translation: English, French, Spanish

Time (GMT)	Agenda Item
12:00 – 12:05	<p>Introduction</p> <p>Joseph Nhan-O'Reilly Executive Director International Parliamentary Network for Education</p>
12:05 – 12:10	<p>The Abuja Conference: From Commitment to Practice</p> <p><i>Remarks from government representative from Nigeria, providing an overview of the Conference, objectives, themes and modalities for participation</i></p> <p>H.E. Mr. Richard Adejola [Invited] Permanent Representative Mission of Nigeria the United Nations in Geneva</p>
12:10 – 12:17	<p>Attacks on education and the Safe Schools Declaration</p> <p><i>Remarks from representative from the Global Coalition to Protect Education addressing the following questions:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>What is the scope of attacks on education?</i> • <i>What is the Safe Schools Declaration?</i> • <i>What is the case for endorsing and implementing the Safe Schools Declaration?</i> • <i>How are countries implementing the Declaration?</i> <p>Veronique Aubert OBE Co-Chair of the Global Coalition to Protect Education from Attack and ICC Prosecutor's Special Advisor on Crimes Against and Affecting Children</p>
12:17 – 12:27	<p>The impact of attacks on education</p> <p><i>An overview of the impact that attacks on education can have on students, educators, and societies, including the impact on access to education and the disproportionate impact on women and girls.</i></p>

	<p>Fawzia Koofi Former Vice President National Assembly of Afghanistan</p> <p>Young person [TBC] Supported by Save the Children oPt</p>
12:27 – 12:47	<p>Safeguarding education from attack: the role of parliamentarians</p> <p><i>An overview of the role of members of parliament in helping to safeguard education from attack, and how civil society can support those efforts.</i></p> <p><i>Followed by a range of interventions from parliamentarians highlighting actions they have taken to support the protection of education from attack.</i></p> <p>Invited parliamentary speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Hon. Prof Julius Ihonvbere Member of the National Assembly of Nigeria and IPNEd Regional Representative for Africa ● MNA Mehnaz Akber Aziz Member of the National Assembly of Pakistan and IPNEd Regional Representative for Asia ● Senator Deborah O’Neill Member of the Senate of Australia and IPNEd Regional Representative for Oceania ● Minister Dr. Aishath Ali Minister of Education, Maldives <p>Discussion moderation by Joseph Nhan-O’Reilly</p>
12:47 – 12:57	<p>Q&A</p> <p><i>Questions from the audience to speakers, shared via the Zoom chat.</i></p> <p>Discussion moderation by Joseph Nhan-O’Reilly</p>
12:57 - 13:00	<p>Concluding remarks</p> <p><i>Final reflections and call to action.</i></p> <p>Joseph Nhan-O’Reilly Executive Director International Parliamentary Network for Education</p>

Further information

Overview

Every child deserves the right to go to a safe school free of violence. Yet all around the world, education is under attack, with attacks and the military use of schools on the rise. Everyday students and teachers are killed, raped, and abducted, while schools and universities are occupied, bombed, and destroyed.

The [Fourth International Conference on the Safe Schools Declaration](#) taking place in Abuja and virtually on October 25-27 2021, provides a galvanizing moment to strengthen the protection of education from attack. In particular, the Conference will provide an opportunity for states to announce endorsement of the Safe Schools Declaration (SSD) and demonstrate progress in implementing the SSD. As of September 2021, [112 countries](#), representing well over half of all UN Member States, have endorsed the Declaration thereby signaling a growing consensus among the international community about the inherent value of the Declaration in protecting education in armed conflict.

The Conference also provides a key moment to build awareness of the critical role members of parliament, working alongside civil society, can play in encouraging their government to join the Declaration and strengthen its implementation.

To support parliamentarians in making that case to their government, the International Parliamentary Network for Education (IPNEd) are convening a high-level event for members of parliament on protecting education from attack. The event will build on IPNEd's ongoing work on protecting education from attack, which included a [briefing for MPs](#) launched on 9 September, 2021, to celebrate the second observance of the International Day to Protect Education from Attack.

The event will also be open for representatives from civil society, and seek to raise awareness amongst the sector of the value and opportunity of working and partnering with MPs in advocacy on protecting education from attack. The event will be recorded and uploaded to IPNEd and GCPEA's YouTube channel.

Event objective

The objective of the event is to convene members of parliament from around the world alongside civil society to build political support for strengthening the protection of education from attack and the military use of schools and universities ahead of the Abuja Conference.

The event will:

1. Raise awareness amongst members of parliament of the issue, impact and extent of attacks on education.

2. Strengthen members of parliament's understanding of the Safe Schools Declaration and the Guidelines for Protecting Schools and Universities from Military Use during Armed Conflict, and make the case for endorsement and implementation.
3. Promote best practice, both in implementing the Declaration and in parliamentary advocacy for protecting education from attack - including alongside civil society.
4. Outline the steps parliamentarians, with the support of civil society, can take to encourage national governments to strengthen the protection of attack, including by endorsing and implementing the Safe Schools Declaration and incorporating the Guidelines into national legislations and military doctrines.

Audience

1. Members of Parliament the International Parliamentary Network for Education
2. Members of civil society working on advocacy to protect education from attack