

Where peace Begins:
The pivotal Role of Education for
Lasting peace

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

Sarajevo, Bosnia-Herzegovina

March 11-12, 2009

PROGRAMME



(Where Peace Begins report. School children from Bazarak School, Panjshir Valley, Afghanistan/Jean Chung)

Organized by the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the International Save the Children Alliance, and hosted by the Government of Bosnia-Herzegovina

BACKGROUND

On 12 March 2008 Save the Children launched a global debate on the relationship between education and peace – what kind of education can promote peace, and how do we make sure that children receive the quality education that will help them build peace?

Events and discussions have taken place across the globe, engaging children, teachers, parents, Nobel Peace Prize Laureates, educationalists and governments to contribute to a greater understanding of the links between education and peace. In November 2008, 31 Nobel Peace Prize winners released a joint letter calling for education for children affected by conflict.

This conference aims to bring together Nobel Peace Prize Laureates, peace mediators, educationalists, representatives of governments and the United Nations, civil society, and other peace process actors to continue the global debate. The conference will explore the inclusion of quality education in peace processes, and seek ways to ensure that quality education becomes a reality for all children living in conflict-affected fragile states.

To that end, the objectives for this conference are to discuss:

- Why education should be prioritized in peace agreements and peace processes
- How does education promote peace or, on the contrary, feed conflict
- How progress can be made on the prioritization of education in post-conflict situations

Through panel presentations and moderated discussions, participants will:

- Discuss what role education has in peace mediation and how education can be integrated into peace processes to help build sustainable peace. This includes the value of prioritizing education in peace processes, the presentation of various perspectives on education systems in post-conflict situations, and practical approaches to resolving challenges and reconciling differences.
- Collaboratively share suggestions that will take the findings of the conference, together with the current state of knowledge, forward into relevant networks, partnerships and learning initiatives.
- Discuss and provide input to a draft framework for including education in peace processes (its components might include discussion recommendations that will be presented at the spring 2009 General Assembly thematic debate on access to education or at future peace mediator retreats, a reference document provided to the UN Department of Political Affairs' Mediation Support Unit, and other suitable destinations suggested by the participants).

PROGRAMME

Wednesday, March 11, 2009

- 09:00 – 17:00** Optional Program (* see below)
- 17:00 – 18:00** **Registration**
- 18:30 – 21:00** **Welcome Reception & Formal Dinner**
- 18:30-18:40 Welcome by Evening Chair Charlotte Petri Gornitzka, Secretary General
International Save the Children Alliance
- 18:40-18:50 Welcome by the Government of Bosnia-Herzegovina
- 18:50-19:00 Welcome by His Excellency, Ambassador Jan Braathu, Government of Norway to BiH
- 19:00-20:20 Dinner
- 20:20-20:40 **Keynote Address**

Thursday, March 12, 2009

- 08:30 – 09:00** **Introductions and Overview of Objectives**
- 8:30-8:40 Introduction of Conference Objectives by Kai Brand-Jacobsen, Conference Chair
- 8:40-8:50 Welcome by His Excellency, Nebojša Radmanović, Chairman of the B-H Presidency
- 8:50-9:00 Welcome by Elisabeth Walaas, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs,
The Government of Norway
- 09:00 – 09:15** **Opening Speech**
- Vernor Muñoz**, UN Special Rapporteur on the Right to Education
- 09:15 – 10:30** **Panel and Q&A: Why Prioritize Education in Peace Processes?**
- Moderator: Allan Rock**, Former Canadian UN Ambassador and President of the
University of Ottawa
- Peace begins in the minds of children. Education plays a crucial role in shaping the minds of children and youth. In any society the education system lays an important foundation for development. Education is not only about teaching children to read and write, although this is a crucial element. Education is a political tool which can maintain status quo or be transformative. But how do we ensure that children receive the quality education that contributes to peace? What are the benefits? What are the key elements? What are the contextual differences?
- Panellist presentations include:
- **Alan Smith**, Professor, UNESCO Chair, University of Ulster, Northern Ireland; *Educational Challenges for Post-conflict Reconstruction and Peacebuilding*
 - **Valery Perry**, OSCE; *A Case Study: Education for the Children of Bosnia-Herzegovina*

- **Kerstin Tebbe**, Coordinator for Education and Fragility, Inter-Agency Network for Education in Emergencies (INEE); **Macro-level Contributions of Education to Peace**
- **Raj Dhunghana**, Save the Children in Nepal; **Building Peace and Democracy Through Education**

10:30 – 11:00 Break

11:00 – 12:15 **Panel and Q&A: Education's role in Peace Mediation**

Moderator: Don Steinberg, Deputy President (Policy), International Crisis Group

Peace processes are complex and often fragile (on average, countries coming out of war face a 40 percent chance of relapsing into conflict within a decade). Resolving armed conflict and establishing a sustainable peace is not an easy task. Of the 37 full peace agreements signed between 1989 and 2005, 11 make no mention of education, and yet it is of vital importance to many.

Panellist presentations include:

- **Betty Bigombe**, Distinguished African Scholar, Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars; **Inside the Mediation in Uganda**
- **Emira Meanovi**, Director of South East European Youth Network (SEEYN); **Youth status in BiH and region (South East Europe)**
- **Olav Seim**, Director, EFA International Coordination Team, **UNESCO**
- **Paolo Ciani**, Comunità di Sant'Egidio

12:15 – 13:15 Lunch

13:15 – 15:30 **Roundtable Discussions (including coffee/tea)**

Why Should Education be Prioritized in Peace Processes?

How can Education be Prioritized in Peace Processes?

Development of Recommendations

(Moderated discussion generated from input from morning presentations, and discussion questions given in advance)

15:30 – 16:15 Plenary Presentations of Roundtable discussions

16:15 – 16:45 Break (Moderators will analyze and consolidate conclusions)

16:45 – 17:00 **Next steps and Summing Up**

17:00 **Closing Remarks**

***Wednesday, March 11, 2009 – Optional Program**

The conference will also offer an optional day program on March 11 for participants interested in visiting Sarajevo and its environs. Participants may attend a day-trip to visit local schools and meet with representatives of Bosnia-Herzegovina's Ministry of Education.