



## Programme

### **International Leaders Programme alumni meeting Empowering women and girls through education**

Thursday 20 May 2021 | WP1933V

1300-1530 GMT

#### **To be held virtually**

The 2021 International Leaders Programme Alumni series provides an online forum to strengthen the alumni network through discussion on key policy issues.

Standing up for the right for 12 years quality education is a top priority for the UK, and is a central theme of the UK's G7 presidency. The ILP discussion is one of a number of events scheduled in support of this and in the lead up to the [July 2021 Global Education Summit: Financing GPE 2021-2025](#), co-hosted by the UK and Kenya, which aims to raise at least US\$5 billion over 5 years to support education systems in up to 90 countries and territories where 80% of the world's out-of-school children live.

#### **Context**

Educating girls benefits entire societies. "High quality female education empowers women, reduces poverty and unleashes economic growth" (Helen Grant, UK Special Envoy for Girls' Education). A child whose mother can read is 50 percent more likely to live past the age of five and twice as likely to attend school themselves. With just one additional school year, a woman's earnings can increase by up to a fifth.

The UK will continue to champion efforts to get children into school to receive quality education, and has set out ambitious global targets of getting 40 million more girls in school, and 20 million more girls reading by age 10, or at the end of primary school, in low- and middle-income countries by 2026. These targets were recently agreed within the G7 and referenced in the Foreign and Development Communique.

In order to reach these targets, we need to tackle the barriers that prevent education of disadvantaged girls, including poverty, cultural norms and practices, violence and fragility.

Drawing on the range of expertise and experience across the International Leaders Programme, the workshop aims to identify ways in which to promote efforts to increase the number of girls accessing quality education at primary and secondary levels. In particular:

- Successful practical initiatives in different countries and contexts



- Ways in which to influence national and local leadership to tackle the barriers that prevent equitable access
- How to strengthen support and commitment across national governments, business, faith leaders and civil society organisations.

The workshop will also assist alumni members to forge further links for future activities and to cement relationships established through the ILP network.

The sessions will be participatory with numbers limited to ensure there is an opportunity for input from everyone involved in the meeting. Speakers will provide brief introductory remarks in order to stimulate a free-flowing and inclusive dialogue. Discussion will be held off the record under the Chatham House Rule to enable an open and frank exchange.

The meeting will be conducted in English.

**In association with the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO)**

## Thursday 20 May 2021

1245

### Arrival and orientation

1300-1310

### Welcome

**Julia Purcell**

Programme Director, Wilton Park, Steyning

1310-1315

### Introduction to meeting

**Sheila O'Connor**

Head of VIP Visits and the International Leaders Programme, FCDO, London

1315-1335

### 1. Empowering girls through education: how to generate global momentum?

**Recorded speech by:**

**Helen Grant**

UK Prime Minister's Special Envoy for Girls' Education, London

**Introductory remarks**

**Emma Green**

Girls' Education Campaign Lead, FCDO, London

**Emily Gray MBE**

Education Adviser, Senior Responsible Owner, Education Cannot Wait Global Fund, FCDO, London

1335-1415

### 2. Getting girls into good quality education: overcoming barriers

This session will discuss ways to overcome the barriers that prevent girls from getting good quality education. Following a couple of brief interventions from members of the ILP alumni, the wider ILP group will contribute to the discussion from different national and professional perspectives, responding to these framing questions.

Based on your insights to successful initiatives:

- What are the most critical barriers to overcome to ensure increased, equitable access to quality education?
- What practical steps have been taken nationally or within local communities to overcome these barriers and ensure that girls can access high quality education?

**Melika Husic–Mehmedovic**

Minister, Science, Higher Education and Youth, Government of Sarajevo Canton

**Zaki Hasan**

Ph.D. Candidate, University of Saskatchewan

1415-1420

**Break**

1420-1425

**Introduction to break out groups**

1425-1450

**3. Strategies for change: break out group discussion**

This session will provide an opportunity for more in depth discussion in smaller break out groups. With a focus on how to bring about change and increase educational prospects for girls, discussion will consider practical proposals:

- Who has the power to effect change and how can we influence them? Eg faith and community leaders, national and local governmental bodies, business, girls themselves
- In what ways can we ensure that quality education for girls is sustainable? Eg building momentum and widening the support base, having appropriate models for financing, demonstrating success/positive outcomes.

**Delfina Irazusta**

Executive Director, Network for Local Innovation, Buenos Aires

**Sophie Katsarava**

Ambassador, Embassy of Georgia in the UK, London

**Maria Antonia Arroyo**

Founder and Principal, Ignite Impact Fund, Manila

1450-1500

**4. Reflections from breakouts: brief summary of proposals from each of the groups**

1500-1515

**5. Wrap up and conclusions**

**Emma Green**

Girls' Education Campaign Lead, FCDO, London

**Final announcements**

**Clare Magloire**

International Leaders Programme Manager, FCDO, London

**Julia Purcell**

Programme Director, Wilton Park, Steyning

1515-1530

**Informal networking (optional)**

**This is an invitation only conference.**

Enquiries about the programme: Julia Purcell, Programme Director

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