

IFUW joins the CHARGE for Girls' Education

Geneva, Switzerland, 16 December 2014 – The International Federation of University Women (IFUW) has become a new joiner of the Collaborative for Harnessing Ambition and Resources for Girls' Education (CHARGE), convened by the [Center for Universal Education](#) (CUE) at the Brookings Institution and the [No Ceilings Initiative](#) at the Clinton Foundation, to unite efforts on girls' education behind five priorities that require urgent attention: Access; Safety; Quality Learning; Transitions; and Leadership. Championed by former United States Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, former Prime Minister of Australia Julia Gillard and joined by more than 30 global actors from civil society, governments and the private sector, CHARGE will address and advance solutions to issues in girls' education, aligning individual efforts on the five priorities. IFUW's CHARGE commitment contributes to the improvement of quality and transitions in girls' secondary education.

As an official partner, IFUW has pledged to increase the number of qualified female secondary school teachers in sub-Saharan Africa to provide 15,000 girls with improved, high quality learning opportunities. In addition, IFUW will support the transition of 10,000 girls from secondary school to university or work over the next five years through a mentoring programme. Recognising the distinct gender gap in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM), the mentoring programme will include women leaders in STEM subjects to provide vital role models that demonstrate the possibilities of a career in STEM to girls and young women.

President of IFUW, Catherine Bell, commended the founders and partners of CHARGE for launching this critical global initiative, emphasising the strong complementarity to the IFUW mission: "IFUW, with CHARGE partners, will provide concerted action and collective responsibility to tackle the numerous barriers to education faced by millions of girls and women worldwide. IFUW is fully committed to delivering on its CHARGE targets and looks forward to being part of the international impetus for equality and empowerment through education."

CHARGE aims to improve the educational prospects for over 14 million girls over five years, focusing on five priority areas: ensuring that girls can attend and complete primary and secondary school; making schools safer and more secure; improving the quality of learning for girls; supporting girls' transition to higher education and employment; and cultivating local country leaders to champion this work at the grassroots level.

The International Federation of University Women (IFUW) is based in Geneva, Switzerland, and has an international membership. Founded in 1919, IFUW is the leading girls' and women's global organisation advocating for women's rights, equality and empowerment through access to quality education and training up to the highest levels. IFUW is in special consultative status with ECOSOC and is an NGO maintaining official relations with UNESCO.

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