

## GWI United Nation Representative Advocacy Report Vienna 2019

### GWI advocacy goals

1. 100% of United Nations Member States commit to policy, legislation, budget and infrastructure to facilitate transition of girls from primary to secondary school and ensure gender parity and gender equality throughout secondary education by 2030.
2. By 2030 100% of United Nations low income Member States have increased access to tertiary education for girls and women by 50%.
3. 100% of United Nations Member States commit to and implement policies for continuing education to empower women throughout the life course, within the formal and informal economies.
4. Influence the implementation of Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 4.
5. All 17 SDGs will include girls' education targets.



### International High-Level Conference Educating for the Rule of Law: Inspire. Change. Together. 7-9 October 2019; United Nations, Vienna

#### Subject of meeting:

This three day High Level Conference, organized by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), served to highlight the UN's **Education for Justice ('E4J')** global initiative. The numerous educational tools for E4J that have been developed by UNODC together with academics around the world were presented and discussed in detail.

In the Doha Declaration (2015), endorsed under UN Resolution 70/174, UN member states emphasized that education is fundamental for the prevention of crime and for the promotion of

the rule of law and human rights. This has led to the E4J initiative organized by UNODC which is aimed at i) promoting a culture of lawfulness and ii) building the capacity of educators to equip students, at all levels, with the ability to address issues which can undermine the rule of law. The E4J Initiative will contribute to all the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), with special impact on SDG 4 (Quality Education), SDG 16 (Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions) and SDG 17 (Partnerships for the Goals).

The objective of the Conference was to provide the international community with the opportunity to discuss the ways of promoting education for the rule of law, especially through creative educational approaches and activities. It aimed to:

1. Highlight the importance of investing in and teaching children and youth on the rule of law - and how this can make the world safer from crime, corruption and violence.
2. Provide a forum for multinational exchange of good practices.
3. Empower educators to integrate rule of law related topics into curricula at primary, secondary and tertiary levels.

The conference was attended by over 350 specialists in the field of education, justice, and policymaking from approximately 100 countries at E4J's invitation.



*Panel including Yury Fedotov (UNODC), Abdullah Al-Mai (Qatar) and Naomi Oloyode (Nigeria); The Conference in session*

The Conference was opened by Yury Fedotov, Executive Director of UNODC, who stressed the fundamental role of education in preventing crime and strengthening the rule of law. This will also be addressed at the 14th Crime Congress in Kyoto in April 2020. Other opening speakers included UNESCO Director-General Audrey Azoulay (by video) who referred to UNESCO's cooperation with UNODC and mentioned two recent joint publications for primary and secondary teachers; and Gen. Abdullah Al-Mal, Advisor to the Prime Minister and Minister of Interior, Qatar. A highlight during the high-level opening was a speech by Naomi Oloyode, an 11 year old student from Abuja, Nigeria who had won a debate on 'How to Combat Corruption'. Naomi appealed for continued investment in peace and the rule of law: "The future of children is in the hands of parents, leaders and policymakers. I plead with you to join hands together to make our world a better, safer and more inclusive space." She made a great impression and received a standing ovation. You can hear her on

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RxtnlBKHljM#action=share>

Some of the expert panel speakers were Iris Rauskala, Minister of Education, Science and Research Austria, who said that young people need to be brought up as responsible citizens; multilateral cooperation is the answer to the global challenges; Hilligje van't Land, Secretary

General of the International Association of Universities (IAU); Monika Froehler, CEO Ban Ki-Moon Centre; Víctor Lagos Pizzati, Deputy Minister, El Salvador; Nafieh Assaf, Assistant Deputy Minister for Education, State of Palestine; Yoshimitsu Yamauchi, Ministry of Justice Japan. Ministers and Representatives from Brazil, North Macedonia, Qatar, Honduras, Mexico, Kuwait, Nigeria also participated on panels. Ali Jetha, CEO Big Bad Boo Studios, Canada talked about creative ways in educating the young -“edutainment” – and how children 0-12y learn values via stories and role models.



UNODC Initiatives following the Doha Declaration



Elisabeth Francis with Naomi Oloyode

Day one included three expert panels on the SDG linkages and comprehensive and creative approaches to strengthening the rule of law through education - fostering meaningful youth engagement to promote a culture of lawfulness, while harnessing their vision, energy and creativity. A side event ‘Voices of Youth’ highlighted E4J Youth Competition winners. Day two was dedicated to breakout sessions in smaller groups, focusing on the primary, secondary and tertiary levels. Day three featured wrap-up discussions including next steps for the E4J initiative.

**Refers to SDG no #:** All, with specific focus on 4, 16 which are both seen as ‘enablers’ and 17.

**Relevant treaties/conventions/resolutions:** The Doha Declaration, as subsequently endorsed by UN General Assembly Resolution 70/174; S/Res/2250.

**What GWI resolution(s) does your attendance relate to? (i.e. Tolerance of Minority Groups (5), FGM (6), Human Trafficking (7), Child Marriage (8), etc.).** All.

**Intervention by GWI rep: (what you did):** Discussions with many participants about GWI and our advocacy objectives. This followed previous meetings with E4J officials and a discussion about GWI.

**Personal observations:**

This conference showed the great progress made with the E4J Initiative, as well as difficulties that certain countries will face in implementing it. There was much interest and enthusiasm from all participants - teachers, academics, policymakers, experts and government representatives. The concept, tools and materials developed for E4J are really very good.

At the **primary level**, the focus is on teaching values such as acceptance, fairness, integrity and respect. Materials include games, videos and in-classroom tools for teachers such as *The Zorbs*,

an animated video series; a mobile game called *Chuka* on violence against women; and the *Online Zoo*, a book about online safety for primary children.

At the **secondary level**, materials include educational videos, board games and digital games. Teacher guides look to empower students with the knowledge and awareness, so that they can actively foster a culture of lawfulness in their communities.

At the **tertiary level**, there has been a very impressive amount of educational materials developed to support lecturers teaching on rule of law related issues - ninety modules covering integrity and ethics, anti-corruption, crime prevention and criminal justice, organized crime, cybercrime, firearms trafficking, trafficking in persons and smuggling of migrants, wildlife, fisheries and forest crime and counter-terrorism. More than 600 academics from 550 universities have contributed and/or served as peer reviewers. Over 4000 pages of material has been developed and is available for free at the E4J online platform. There have been more than 100 expert group meetings.

This initiative, when fully rolled out globally and broadly adopted by member states in their education systems, has the scope to be very meaningful.



The Doha Declaration:  
PROMOTING A CULTURE  
OF LAWFULNESS



It was interesting to hear from representatives of member states about their individual achievements so far, their experiences, suggestions and concerns. AI, the darknet, breaches of internet security, the internet of things - all are seen as new challenges to be addressed via education.

Some of the comments and points raised related to:

- Improving cooperation between students and professors
- Developing partnerships between the education and justice sectors and increasing participation by civil society
- Getting mothers and fathers on board – they are the first role models for children
- Global citizen education, a holistic approach, multi-disciplinary with appreciation of cultural diversity
- Informal education – the program “We Love Reading” has spread to 55 countries.
- ‘We all need to think about how to incorporate informal education not only for children but also adults; we need to achieve the connection between formal and informal education’.
- ‘It is not all about funds; it is about the will.’
- ‘Creating a new generation that replaces the “me” for the “we”.’
- There is intense competition in schools in certain countries – there should be a move towards more cooperation; from ‘best in the world’ to ‘best *for* the world’.

There is much new thinking on how education can help to promote the rule of law and enable progress toward achievement of the SDGs.

**How this serves GWI members:**

The E4J Initiative will be of interest to all GWI members interested in education, in SDG 4, and in how education can serve to promote a culture of lawfulness and more just societies. As E4J themselves say, ‘the initiative is based on a profound conviction that the promotion of the rule of law in all its facets is a fundamental part of education, ...we look to foster global citizens with a solid moral and ethical compass.’

For more information visit: <https://www.unodc.org/e4j>



*E4J Materials – Primary, Secondary and Tertiary levels*

**Did you take any photographs? If yes, please include captions. Yes.**

**May GWI use this information on its social media? Yes**

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