



GWI United Nation Representative Advocacy Report 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.

Please bear in mind these five overarching, long-term goals during any United Nations intervention that you make on behalf of GWI. Any intervention should push these five goals further.

NB: *Although these goals represent GWI's mission, our United Nations Representatives are should always promote all GWI key messages and represent GWI professionally.*

Name: Maureen Byrne, Ph.D.; NY REP – GWI

City of UN Representative: New York

Session/Meeting Attended: 81st Session of the Committee on the Rights of the Child; 5-13-19 (viewed thru Webtv)

Highlights:

Representative of the Secretary-General: Mr. Adam Abdelmoula

The 30th Anniversary of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) will be celebrated on **November 20, 2019**. Member states have been asked to (1) renew their commitment, (2) report national initiatives to mark the anniversary, and (3) pledge to take one specific and measurable action to advance the rights of the child. This information will be posted to the CRC webpage.

***** Please Note:** This year's HLPF (7-19) will focus on Sustainable Development Goals that include education, inequality, and climate change, as well as specific targets on ending child labor and all forms of violence against children.

***** Please Note:** The next Human Rights Council Social Forum will be held on **10-1-19** and **10-2-19** and will focus on the rights of children and youth through education.

The third session of the OHCHR scheduled to be held in September may be cancelled due to delays in payments of UN membership contributions by Member States.

Statement by UNICEF:

UNICEF has been working with Governments to implement national commitments to the CRC. Forty country offices and National Committees are planning national summits for children to run on 11-20-19.

There will be a *Child Friendly Cities Summit* to be held in Cologne, Germany 10-15 to 10-18, 2019 bringing together 500 mayors, technical experts, children, and young adults. The Summit will culminate with a recommitment by the mayors to the CRC at the local level.

***** Please Note:** UNICEF is working on a report – **looking 30 years back and 30 years ahead** - to be launched in November that will include a retrospective piece of data analysis of trends in key areas since the adoption of the CRC, looking at where progress has been made and where it has not. It will seek to understand what drives advances in child rights, what impedes them, and what stakeholders must do to better fulfill children's rights in the next 30 years.

Statement by Child Rights Connect:

Members of Child Rights Connect across all regions are reporting increased challenges that many child rights NGOs and coalitions are facing. These include shrinking civil society space and serious threats, such as media campaigns containing misinformation and propaganda explicitly directed against children's rights.

UNICEF and Child Rights Connect have collaborated on the publication of a child-friendly version of the CRC.

Intervention by GWI Rep: NA

How This Serves GWI members: Highlights important upcoming sessions focused on education and other child rights.

Next Steps: Disseminate to members

Submitted by: Maureen Byrne, Ph.D., 5-15-19