

**GWI United Nation Representative  
Advocacy Report  
2021**

**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.*

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UNICEF: *The Climate Crisis is a Child Rights Crisis*

UNICEF recently published the above report which can be found on their website. The report states that climate change is the greatest threat facing the world's children and young people and introduces what they term **Children's Climate Risk Index (CCRI)**. Each country is given a CCRI based on an average of scores for (1) Exposure to climate and environmental threats and stresses and (2) Child vulnerability.

(1). The score for exposure to climate and environmental threats and stresses is based on the following:

\* Water scarcity

- \* Riverine floods
- \* Coastal flooding
- \* Tropical cyclones
- \* Vector borne diseases
- \* Heatwaves
- \* Air pollution
- \* Soil and water pollution

(2). The score for child vulnerability is based on:

- \* Child health and nutrition
- \* Education
- \* Water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH)
- \* Poverty, communication assets, and social protection

Globally, nearly half the world's children, approximately 1 billion children, live in extremely high-risk countries according to the CCRI. The top 13 countries are in Africa, followed by Pakistan, Afghanistan, and Bangladesh. To add insult to injury, the highest risk places contribute least to the causes of climate change. That is, the 33 countries with extremely high CCRI emit less than 10% of global greenhouse gas emissions.

The 10 countries at low or very low-risk risk are in Europe with the exception of New Zealand. Countries can also have varied scores. For example, the United States, which ranks 80 out of 163, is high for exposure to climate and environmental threats but low for child vulnerability.

The 10 highest emitting countries collectively account for 70% of global emissions, yet only one of them is ranked as extremely high-risk in the Index.

**Recommendations made:**

1. The report comes ahead of the November 2021 United Nations Climate Change Conference in Glasgow, Scotland. There is still time for countries to commit to preventing the worst, including setting the appropriate carbon budgets to meet the Paris Accord targets and ultimately taking the drastic action required to shift the economy away from fossil fuels.
2. Increase investment in climate adaptation and resilience in key services for children. Critical services must be adapted, including water, sanitation, and hygiene systems, health, and education services.

3. Reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Countries must cut their emissions by at least 45% (compared to 2010 levels) by 2030 to keep warming to no more than 1.5 degrees Celsius.
4. Provide children with climate education and green skills critical to adaptation.
5. Include young people in all national, regional, and international climate negotiations and decisions, including at COP26.
6. Ensure the recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic is green, low-carbon, and inclusive, so that the capacity of future generations to address and respond to the climate crisis is not compromised.

**Every child deserves a livable planet.**

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8/30/21