

Response to Send My Friend to School's 'World Leader' campaign

July 2015

It is a tragedy that 59 million children around the world are still not in school. We all know how important a good education is for helping children succeed in life - not just in the developing world, but also here in the UK.

The Department for International Development (DFID) is already doing much to help children in poor countries go to school. Since 2010, UK aid has supported 11 million children in primary and lower secondary school. This is great news - a lot of progress has been made. But there are still too many children who do not learn the basics in reading and maths, and are not even in school.

We all know that children caught up in conflicts - particularly girls and children with disabilities - are more likely to be denied an education. That is why I am so proud of the UK flagship Girls Education Challenge (GEC) that will help up to a million of the world's poorest girls to improve their lives through education by 2017 (www.gov.uk/girls-education-challenge). We have also set out how we will improve opportunities for disabled children and we are working with others to try and ensure that children in conflict-affected countries are able to stay safe and remain in school.

In September this year, at the United Nations General Assembly, the UK, along with other Governments from around the world, will be agreeing the Sustainable Development Goals. One of the goals that we hope to agree focuses on education, so that more children than ever before will be in school by 2030. More information on what the UK is doing to help children in developing countries access good education can be found on our website (www.gov.uk/dfid).

It really is great to see children across the UK taking an interest in the lives of children around the world and it is their interest and passion that inspires me to do all I can to ensure all children get the education they deserve.

JUSTINE GREENING