Becoming a member of the Global Campaign for Education

About GCE

What is the Global Campaign for Education?
The Global Campaign for Education (GCE) is a civil society movement that aims to end the global education crisis. Together we hold governments to account for their promises repeatedly made to provide Education for All. GCE's mission is to make sure that governments act now to deliver the right of everyone to a free, quality, public education. Since our formation in 1999, over 60 million people have united to call for Education For All. Civil society organisations, teachers' unions, child rights campaigners, teachers, parents and students have joined together to demand universal education.

Why Education?
Education is a fundamental human right, yet 58 million children of primary school age and another 63 million children of lower secondary age are still out of school. 781 million adults are unable to read and write. The majority of these children and adults are female. Not only is education a right and entitlement, but it is also crucial to tackling global poverty, improving health, halting the spread of HIV and AIDS and enabling people to play a full, active part in their communities.

Where are we now?
GCE has grown from year to year; there are now education coalitions in over 90 countries. Our annual Global Action Week has seen millions around the world join together to take action on education. Campaign activities have been attended by globally-renowned figures including Nelson Mandela, Angelina Jolie, Mick Jagger and Graça Machel and we have involved dozens of heads of state in our campaign events. GCE members have also helped secure numerous policy changes. Overall we have seen the number of children out of school decrease from 100 million in 2000 to 58 million now. We have seen increases in aid to education from most developed countries, although this has slowed in recent years, threatening the progress of the last decade. Countries across Asia, Africa and Latin America have announced policy decisions following our national campaigning activities including new teacher recruitment, increased education budgets, abolition of fees and special programmes to increase enrolment of girls.

Why should we join GCE?

There are many benefits to becoming a member of GCE:

- your organisation will be part of a truly international movement with members in well over 100 countries
- access to a network of like-minded organisations and professionals working towards the same objectives, with opportunities to develop skills, share knowledge and increase the impact of your work
- support for national and international advocacy campaigns through access to resources and materials as well as news on campaign work sent directly to you
- GCE is led by its members: the way the campaign develops is down to you.

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GCE Members must subscribe to our Principles and Demands and agree to uphold our constitution. These can be found at www.campaignforeducation.org.

Fully-subscribed member organisations and coalitions can participate in GCE's World Assembly, vote for GCE policy positions and strategies, stand for election to the governance structures of GCE, use the GCE logo on materials, and are eligible to apply for subsidies to attend the World Assembly.

We believe in uniting civil society in the common pursuit of the right to education - therefore **only one education coalition is recognised in each country**. Individuals, national organisations or trade unions are encouraged to join their national education coalition, but are not eligible to join GCE as an international member. If you represent an organisation in a country which already has a GCE member, please feel free to contact them to discuss joining the national coalition.

What's involved in being a GCE Member?

What rights do GCE members have?

- Participate fully in a global recognised and respected movement for Education for All.
- Be actively involved in shaping the policies and strategy of GCE by participating in democratic fora, including the World Assembly
- Stand for election to the management structures of GCE
- Use GCE logo on materials, documents and resources (with permission from the Secretariat)
- Receive e-mail updates and news on developments in education
- Receive campaign materials, publications and resources.
- If short of resources members will receive sponsorship to attend the World Assembly.

What obligations do GCE Members have?

- Members are committed to advocate for Education Rights during Global Action Week.
- Members must report back on their advocacy work on education to the Secretariat so that it can be shared with other members.
- Members must pay their annual membership fees in order to be eligible to vote at the World Assembly. (See the GCE constitution on the campaign website or contact membershipapplication@campaignforeducation.org for more information)
- Members should monitor the success of campaigning on education and the implementation of the EFA goals at local, national, regional and international levels.

How do we become GCE members?

1. Decide which category of membership you are applying for

Membership of GCE is open to independent and democratic national and regional coalitions of civil society organisations, and international networks and non-governmental organisations working for quality public education for all.

There are four types of membership:

- International alliance / organisation
- International network / alliance working on child labour/ child rights / youth rights
- Regional network
- National coalition

You need to choose which category of membership you wish to apply for.

2. Call a meeting of your coalition/network/organisation

Invite all those who are involved as this needs to be a collective discussion. It is helpful if you can notify the GCE Secretariat of this meeting in advance; we can then ensure that other education campaigners who have contacted the GCE in the past from your country/region/constituency are informed about the meeting. It might also be possible for a member of the GCE Board or Secretariat to attend your meeting if you would like this.

3. At the meeting make a collective decision on if you want to become a formal member of GCE

You will need to jointly fill in the membership application form found in the Members section of our website: www.campaignforeducation.org

You need to confirm that you subscribe to GCE's principles and demands and agree to uphold our constitution. You also need to agree how the small but important membership fee will be paid.

4. Send the completed form to the GCE Secretariat

Please send the form to Boitumelo Kgomo at GCE HQ:

Global Campaign for Education

The Education Hub, 6 Blackwood Avenue,
Parktown, Johannesburg 2193,
South Africa
Or email it to:
membershipapplication@campaignforeducation.org

We will then present the application at the next board meeting and let you know if membership has been approved.

We offer financial support to certain members for participation in democratic fora, in particular the World Assembly.

Please note one education coalition per country is recognised and this should include a teachers' union. Individuals, national organisations or trade unions are not eligible to apply on their own - they must join via their national coalition.

More information

For more information please see the membership pages of our website. Alternatively, please contact the GCE Secretariat at membershipapplication@campaignforeducation.org
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