



## GCE Linking & Sharing Gathering

### Rationale

The past two years have been both a learning and taxing experience on our movements globally. COVID-19 as we continue to see, has exacerbated the existing inequities especially experienced by marginalised, indigenous, POC, differently abled, womxn, girls, migrants and refugees across the globe. COVID-19 more specifically has increased the systemic and structural violence faced by youth, students, teachers and those displaced due to conflict. Accessing quality equitable education has been a harrowing, exclusionary and traumatic experience for many. The realities facing youth and students in the so called 'global south' specifically, are deeply linked to their colonial past and current systems of capitalist colonisation. Repression and Resistance are two trends that have emerged throughout the Covid-19 crisis particularly in relation to young people's responses to authoritarian rule, political violence and the repression of active citizenship among human rights defenders and civil society. A similar reality is faced by students and youth in the criminalisation and repression of students, youth, teachers and human rights defenders in Latin America fighting for social justice and specifically issues and access to education. The criminalisation and shrinking of space for youth and student led social justice organising has been seen to be on the rise during this "new normal" we find ourselves facing.

GCE acknowledges and stands in solidarity with the many youth, students, teachers, activists and civil society organisations demanding a radical equitable shift in our education systems. In 2021 the GCE launched its first ever youth and student focused small grants programme, which sought to strengthen the organising efforts of youth and students globally. The small grant programme seeks to centre COVID-19 recovery responses led by youth and students particularly in the areas of advocacy, policy, alternative education opportunities and technological innovation when it comes to the digital divide amplified by our "new normal."

As the Global Campaign for Education grows and strengthens its youth and student engagement, it becomes imperative to create spaces and platforms for youth and students to build bridges of solidarity and capacity across our membership. Creating brave spaces and platforms for youth and students to be leading discussions, documenting perspectives, co-creating strategies and developing shared agendas for education advocacy and activism within GCE is a fundamental goal.

## **Purpose**

This gathering Building bridges of solidarity and expanding our fast-growing youth and student engagement work is of utmost importance at this vital moment within the movement. By building linkages and capacity across our youth and student constituency we believe that the vision of having youth and students leading the movement becomes that much more tangible and realistic. By bringing together new grantee partners and existing members, the gathering aims to create space for sharing and learning across regional contexts to get a better sense of existing synergies that may be leveraged on across the movement.

In fulfilling the vision of creating space for sharing and linking constituencies across our geographical boundaries, the GCE will be hosting a linking and sharing gathering to bring together our 15 new small grantee partners but also to create space for our existing members to engage with new partners. This will be a virtual gathering via zoom where breakaway sessions and space for networking and sharing may take place.

### ***The purpose of this gathering is 3-fold***

1. Better connect actors and work that is being done by our grantee partners and existing GCE members
2. Create opportunities for transnational sharing and collaboration
3. Build and strengthen GCE membership base by tangibly connecting new organisations and activists to the GCE movement

### **Proposed dates and Format of gathering**

- 2-hour gathering on zoom where breakout sessions are possible
- Proposed dates: 19 November OR 25 November 2021
- Facilitation plan/ROS will include speakers and moderators as well as mapping flow of event

[https://docs.google.com/document/d/1I-zNrO7kNmpU0SLdHdx\\_JGjUvyp9EZ2LA3tdh-0Bqtw/edit?usp=sharing](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1I-zNrO7kNmpU0SLdHdx_JGjUvyp9EZ2LA3tdh-0Bqtw/edit?usp=sharing)