



Foreign, Commonwealth
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Rt Hon Sir George Howarth MP
House of Commons
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Dear George,

Thank you for your correspondence of 23 April to the Foreign Secretary, on behalf of a number of your constituents about children's rights at the G7. I am replying as the Minister for the European Neighbourhood and the Americas. The COVID-19 pandemic has had an enormous impact on children around the world. During the peak of the pandemic, as many as 1.6 billion learners were out of school, and the most disadvantaged, including girls, are at high risk of dropping out permanently.

We have put girls' education at the heart of our G7 Presidency, and as a result have made huge strides in achieving our ambition of standing up for the right of every girl to 12 years of quality education. At the G7 Leaders' Summit in June, the Prime Minister secured endorsement of two ambitious global targets to get 40 million more girls in school, and 20 million more girls reading by the age of 10 in the next 5 years. They also endorsed a girls' education declaration that prioritises education as we recover from the COVID-19 pandemic, and outlines the collective action that the G7 will take to support the achievement of our two global targets. The UK will lead from the front. The Foreign Secretary has made girls' education an international development priority for the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office.

As outlined in the G7 Leaders' Communique, these targets need to be underpinned by sustainable financing, and a well-funded Global Partnership for Education (GPE) will be central to delivering them. This is why the Prime Minister announced a UK pledge of £430 million to GPE at the G7 Summit. This is our largest ever pledge to GPE, and an uplift of 15% from our current position as top bilateral donor. This significant pledge meant that we were able to secure commitment from our G7 partners of at least \$2.7 billion to GPE ahead of the Global Education Summit in July. This is a fantastic contribution towards GPE's rolling target of \$5 billion over the next 5 years. These commitments will play a critical role in transforming education for the world's poorest children. The UK Government is proud to be co-hosting the Global Education Summit this week in partnership with Kenya. I want to reassure you that we will continue to maximise opportunities in 2021 through our hosting of the Global Education Summit, and through the UK's Presidency of COP26 to demonstrate Global Britain's leadership on girls' education.

Yours sincerely
Wendy Morton

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