



## Concept Note Education under Attack 2024 Global Launch

---

**Date:** Thursday, 20 June 2024

**Time:** 10:30-12:00 EST

**Location:** New York, UN Secretariat, room 5 and online

**Co-organisers:** GCPEA, Norway, Republic of Korea, Slovenia

**Co-sponsors:** Spain, Nigeria TBC, Argentina TBC, Qatar TBC

### Education under Attack – the report

The Global Coalition to Protect Education from Attack (GCPEA) is a global coalition of UN agencies and International Civil Society Organisations that advocates for the protection of education during armed conflict since 2010.

Every two years GCPEA publishes its flagship report, *Education under Attack*, which is the most comprehensive report documenting attacks on education on a global scale. GCPEA considers that an attack on education is any threatened or actual use of force against rights holders, including students and education personnel, as well as schools, universities and other educational facilities. GCPEA monitors intentional and indiscriminate attacks perpetrated by armed forces, law enforcement, state security entities, and non-state armed groups.

*Education under Attack* monitors human rights violations, war crimes and crimes against humanity, including indiscriminate attacks on schools, arbitrary killing of students and education personnel, sexual and gender-based violence, and recruitment of children by armed forces or armed groups. It includes data on the military use of schools and universities by armed forces and non-state armed groups, for example their use as barracks or weapons storage facilities. It also analyses the effects of the use of explosive weapons on schools and universities.

The 7<sup>th</sup> edition of *Education under Attack* that will be published in 2024 and covers the period from January 1, 2022, to December 31, 2023. The report profiles 28 conflict-affected countries with a systematic pattern of attack on education and military use of educational facilities. In addition to the countries profiled in the report, GCPEA identified sporadic reports of attacks on education in at least 50 other countries.

## **Key findings of the report include:**

- Attacks on education are increasing; over 10,000 students, teachers, and academics were harmed, injured, or killed in these attacks, which occurred in armed conflicts across the globe.
- Attacks on schools were the most prevalent form of attack on education;
- There has been a general increase in the use of educational facilities for military purposes and attacks involving the use of explosive weapons;
- Students with disabilities were uniquely impacted by attacks on education;
- Women and girls were targeted because of their gender in attacks on education in certain contexts;
- Spreading violence from the Central Sahel into neighbouring West African countries began impacting access to education in affected countries;
- Initial connections between climate change and attacks on education are emerging, such as in contexts of climate-change induced food insecurity.

The report demonstrates the urgent need for action to protect education from attack. The report includes recommendations to duty bearers that can strengthen prevention and responses to attacks, such as for example a call on States to endorse and implement the Safe Schools Declaration and implement the *Guidelines on for Protecting Schools and Universities during Armed Conflict*. To date, 120 States have endorsed the Declaration - an intergovernmental political commitment to protect education during armed conflict that, in 2025, will celebrate its 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary, hence providing a unique opportunity to strengthen support for universal endorsement.

## **Education Under Attack – the global launch event**

### Goal and specific objectives

The overall goal of the launch event is to galvanise support by Member States and other relevant stakeholders towards key findings and recommendations in the *Education under Attack* report, and to inform the Security Council Open Debate on Children and Armed Conflict.

### Specific objectives:

1. To disseminate and build support and partnerships towards key findings and recommendations of *Education under Attack 2024*, in particular those related to the increase in attacks involving the use of explosive weapons, climate change and gender;
2. To increase the political support to the Safe Schools Declaration within the Security Council in the lead up to the 2024 International Day on Protecting Education from Attack;
3. To stress the need for an intersectional and cross-sectoral approach towards attacks on education, including multi-stakeholder and multi-level coordination around different fora, including the Security Council, the 79<sup>th</sup> session of the UN General Assembly and the Summit of the Future, the 2024 Humanitarian Affairs Segment and the 2024 High-Level Political Forum.

Audience: Members States, in particular members of the UN Security Council, UN experts and entities, civil society organisations, academia, donors, NY-based press.

## Format

An inter-active and informative ninety-minute event that will include opening remarks, keynote address, an overview of *Education under Attack 2024* findings, panellists' reflections, a moderated discussion, a call to action, and closing remarks. The event will be in-person with webcasting.

## Programme

Moderator: Lisa Chung Bender, Executive Director of GCPEA

### *Opening*

- Opening remarks by H.E. Sangjin Kim, Deputy Permanent Representative of the Republic of Korea
- Keynote speaker Virginia Gamba, Special Representative of the Secretary General on Children and Armed Conflict

### *Panel*

- Jerome Marston, GCPEA's Senior Researcher
- Mina Bakhshi, Refugee Student from Afghanistan
- Col. Luis Viñas, Uruguayan representative for UN Verification Mission in Colombia

### *Moderated discussion with questions and reactions from the floor*

### *Synthesis and Call to Action*

- H.E. Merete Brattested, Permanent Representative of Norway to the United Nations in New York

### *Closing*

- Closing remarks by H.E. Ambassador Samuel Žbogar, Representative of Slovenia to the Security Council TBC