

SEND MY SISTER TO SCHOOL

NEWS

AUTUMN
2011

We want to say a massive
THANK YOU to all of
you who took part in the
Send My Sister to School
campaign this year and
managed to get politicians
at all levels to sit up and
take notice!

Rukaya Sirajo at Ube Primary
School, Nigeria.

Credit: Chris Morgan/ActionAid

As part of Send My Sister to School, over 600,000 young people in the UK spoke out for girls education, from 5,000 schools, further education colleges and voluntary groups.

'Sister' messages were created and sent to MPs to highlight the fact that girls in the developing world, as well as boys, deserve a good quality education. The message was, that out of the 67 million children in the world who don't go to school, there are millions more girls than boys who are missing out on an education.

Your response was amazing with hundreds of thousands of messages reaching 640 MPs - 98% of all the MPs in Parliament! Children at nearly 100 schools were so keen to get their point across that they held meetings with their MPs

to talk to them about the issues and to help ensure that all children have the chance to go to school by 2015.

Your activities were also part of a much larger international campaign, involving 8 million people all around the world. The good news is that we are having an impact! You can find out how governments have been responding to all your hard work on page 5.

We have been so impressed with the dedication and creativity that you have all demonstrated in your campaigning activities. Over the next couple of pages you can read about some of the fantastic events that have taken place in every corner of the UK, and some global highlights.

And, finally... find out what is coming up for the campaign in 2012 when the Olympics comes to the UK!



SPEAKING OUT FOR GIRLS EDUCATION... ACROSS THE UK

There were no limits to the creativity and passion that was put into your activities this year. Here are just a few highlights showing the colourful and brilliant ideas that you used to get your message across!

Downing Street visit for Ysgol Pen Y Bryn, North Wales

Pupils from Ysgol Pen Y Bryn travelled to 10 Downing Street to deliver 400 'sister' figures to the Prime Minister. They were accompanied by their MP, David Jones, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Wales and had covered their 'sister' figures with messages calling for Education For All.

Lucy, aged 9, from Ysgol Pen Y Bryn, said, 'I feel very excited to be here. I hope the Prime Minister reads and understands our messages and why we delivered them. It makes me want to do more.'



Over a thousand postcards at Lampton School, Hounslow

1500 students took part at Lampton School! They all wrote postcards to their MP, Alan Keen, to ask him to keep the promise that world leaders made in 2000 that all children would have the opportunity to go to school by 2015. Alan Keen MP met with some students in Westminster to receive the messages, which he has now passed onto the Prime

Minister. To highlight that it's girls who miss out most, the school made the shape of a girl, and stood alongside a banner saying 'Send My Sister to School'.



Colourful messages at Archbishop McGrath High School, Bridgend, Wales

Pupils from Archbishop McGrath High School have been very busy supporting Send My Sister to School. They created colourful messages about the importance of girls' education and made a presentation to their local MP, Huw Irranca-Davies when he visited the school on 23rd May 2011. Mr Irranca-Davies has taken the pupils' messages and will be passing these on to the Prime Minister.



Paper chains at Hallingbury School, Herts

Every child at Little Hallingbury Primary took part in Send My Sister to

School this year by making a little character to join in a long paper chain. The children wrote their thoughts about the importance of education and their prayers for children around the world. They watched some of the video clips about children struggling to get an education and were very moved and inspired by the children's stories. A special assembly was held and the pupils spent some moments reflecting on how lucky they were in the UK.



An additional pupil at Fawkham Primary School, Kent

Fawkham Primary School in Kent created an additional pupil for their school! All the children from reception to year 6 attached their messages of support for the campaign to their new buddy. They invited MP Michael Fallon to the school and told him about their hope that all girls would be educated throughout the world. Their new pupil then went with him and is expected to be visiting other MPs in the Palace of Westminster soon!

Cake and Campaigning at Avonbourne School, Bristol

Avonbourne School encouraged neighbouring school Porchester to get involved and hundreds of other young people. They made a video about Send My Sister to School with 3 boys and 6 girls sitting on a bench. It's on YouTube have a look!

www.youtube.com/user/PortchesterSchool#p/u/0/Xbdp4h60nAs

Their local MP, Tobias Ellwood, came to the school to see the film and to discuss the important issues involved. They shared a special cake with him made for the occasion. Julia Abbiss, Year 7, said: "I volunteered to get involved in this campaign because I hate the fact that there are so many children in the world who don't have the chance to go to school... especially girls! I'm glad I was chosen as we have made a big difference."



Respecting Rights at Stag Lane Junior School, Harrow

Stag Lane Junior School in Harrow has been having lively discussions as part of Send My Sister. The children have shown a strong sense of justice and a powerful understanding of the importance of their responsibility in respecting 'Children's Rights'.

They created moving and compassionate messages on the Send My Sister template to send to Bob Blackman MP and world leaders. Before the day was out a giant friend was created on the playground, using all 390 pupils from the school to promote the campaign.



Hundreds of signatures for Minister at Kelsall Community School, Cheshire

Year 6 Pupils at Kelsall invited the Junior Minister for International Development, Mr Stephen O'Brien, to their school. They presented him with a book of signatures they had collected from their parents and everyone in their community to support the campaign. They asked Mr O'Brien what the government is doing to make sure that children around the world, especially girls, have the chance to go to school. Stephen O'Brien said: "I was delighted to meet the children of Kelsall Primary School to find out how they are supporting the global efforts to get more girls in the developing world into education. We have put women and girls at the centre of the UK Government's work in the world's poorest countries because we know that they hold the key to tackling global poverty." Ceri Lamberton, teacher at Kelsall school said: "The visit today has been really valuable for the children... they feel they have a voice and that they are able to make a difference."



Pupils deliver lessons on girls' education at Bedwas School, Caerphilly

Year 12 pupils kicked off the campaign at Bedwas High School by holding an assembly for all pupils in the school to learn about the barriers to girls' education. Following this, peer educators (Y12 pupils Katie-Star Cometson and Adam Bird) delivered the campaign Lesson Plan to all pupils in Years 7 – 9. Pupils completed the 'sister' templates with pertinent messages and many wrote letters to Wayne David the MP for Caerphilly. Wayne David MP then visited the school to receive the 'sister' figures and give letters of reply to every pupil who had written to him. He was joined by visitors from Mudzini Kwetu in Kikambala, Kenya – a home for vulnerable girls that Bedwas has supported for many years. Alice, the Manager of the home spoke about how fortunate girls in Mudzini Kwetu are in having the support they receive from Bedwas and congratulated the children on their efforts with the Send My Sister to School campaign.



RESPONSE FROM WESTMINSTER

Almost every Member of Parliament in Westminster was contacted by schoolchildren determined to get the Send My Sister to School message through to the highest level. Here is what some of the MPs thought of your campaign...

Oliver Heald, Conservative MP for North Herts

"I presented the petition for this important campaign to Downing Street and was amazed at the quality of the artwork and passion of the students for this cause."



Alistair Carmichael, Liberal Democrat MP for Orkney and Shetland

"I was impressed by the pupils' obvious enthusiasm for such an important cause and took delivery of hundreds of messages to take back to London with me. I will be presenting their work at Downing Street. At a time when many are questioning the rationale behind the UK's international aid programme, statistics like these show why we should provide opportunities for people in the developing world to work themselves out of poverty."

Gemma Doyle, Labour Co-operative MP for West Dunbartonshire

"I was delighted to be contacted by students from local schools recently, keen to take action on some big global issues... It's fantastic that many of our young people want to be involved in Send My Friend to School and I'm definitely keen to support them. It underlines that they are concerned about what is going on around them, not just locally but across the globe and that they want to make a difference."



COUNTDOWN TO THE OLYMPICS

Get ready,
get set...**GO**
for Gold!

2012 is Olympic year, offering athletes from every country the chance to test their abilities in hundreds of sporting events.

Every child should have the opportunity to achieve all that they can and education is key to that. We aim to use the exciting theme of the Olympics to remind world leaders that the race is on. There are only 3 years to go to reach the target of universal primary education by 2015 and it's vital that we win this race. Our Olympics-themed 2012 campaign will include a range of creative learning, campaigning and fun activities to engage the whole school during the summer term of 2012.

Sign up now and we will send you a free schools pack next term, with everything you need to take part: www.sendmyfriend.org

GLOBAL HIGHLIGHTS

What Happened Around the World... and What Progress Has Been Made

Altogether, 8 million people around the world spoke out for Education for All this year, in over 100 countries. Here are a few highlights of activities that took place and some news of progress...

UK

In the UK a new 'Girls Education Challenge' fund has been announced, which will focus on helping 1 million more girls from the poorest parts of the world to have a chance to go to school.

GREECE

In Greece special events were held all around the country with thousands of children taking part. Students organised marches and street theatre and used slogans to speak up for the rights of girls to receive an education.

NIGER

In Niger the government announced that 25 percent of the national budget would go on education from now on.

TOGO

In Togo 1,000 children gathered in front of the Ministry of Education to highlight the importance of girls' education. The event was filmed and shown on 3 TV stations and mentioned on national radio too.

BRAZIL

In Brazil children campaigned against discrimination in the education system. Their hope was to bring an end to all discrimination, whether targeted at young people with disabilities or because of their sexuality or any other issues. Activities included making murals and paintings to symbolise these issues; these were unveiled or presented to decision-makers.

SOMALILAND

In Somaliland, the government announced a policy for free basic education.

ANGOLA

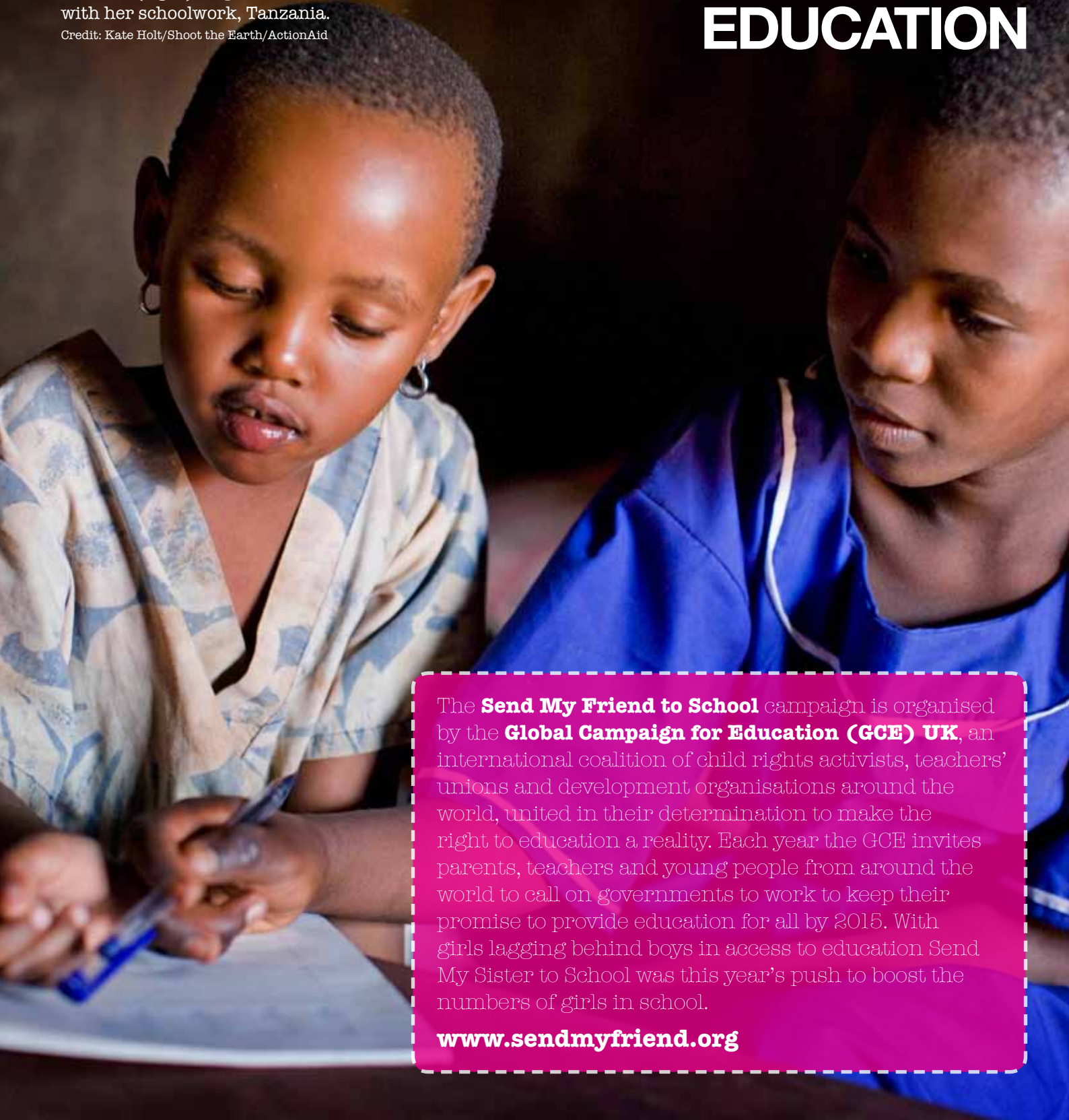
In Angola the government approved a national plan to promote education for women and girls.

There is much excitement around a meeting of the Global Partnership for Education this November in Denmark. The hope is that new money will be pledged to help poor countries deliver some of the excellent plans they have made to get children in school. We will keep you posted!



Nastura (right) helps her cousin with her schoolwork, Tanzania.
Credit: Kate Holt/Shoot the Earth/ActionAid

GLOBAL CAMPAIGN FOR EDUCATION



The **Send My Friend to School** campaign is organised by the **Global Campaign for Education (GCE) UK**, an international coalition of child rights activists, teachers' unions and development organisations around the world, united in their determination to make the right to education a reality. Each year the GCE invites parents, teachers and young people from around the world to call on governments to work to keep their promise to provide education for all by 2015. With girls lagging behind boys in access to education Send My Sister to School was this year's push to boost the numbers of girls in school.

www.sendmyfriend.org

The Global Campaign for Education UK partners are:

