

GOAL 4 ACCESS TO EDUCATION

INTRODUCTION – Why is this a Global Justice Issue?

The Global Goals are a great way to engage students in global justice issues, however the goals can be interpreted very loosely losing the global justice element. WWGS has picked out strong global justice issues in each goal to support the direction you take them within your school.

Education is essential for an individual's, community's and nation's development. Education is a public good, a global common good, a fundamental human right and a basis for guaranteeing the realisation of other rights.

The global estimates vary on the number of children with no access to education but according to Our World In Data, 263 million children are out of school. UNESCO estimate 258 million children and youth are out of school, according to [UIS data](#) for the school year ending in 2018. The total includes:

- 59 million children of primary school age,
- 62 million of lower secondary school age and
- 138 million of upper secondary age.

When you consider that 1 in 4 children do not have their births registered this estimate is potentially much bigger. <https://ourworldindata.org/how-many-children-are-not-in-school>

It's not always useful to compare one type of government spending with another but this statistic starkly illustrates how globally education is certainly not a priority: **what is spent in 8 days of military spending globally can ensure all children with a good quality education (€39 billion).**

When we look at 'Access to Education, we need to look at financing for education; how it's financed (it is private or public?), who is financing it (is it sponsored by corporations, governments or do people have to pay a high price to fund it themselves putting themselves in massive debt? what type of education is it financing (how much is the type of curriculum, teaching and learning being influenced by those who are funding it?)

STEP 1: Identify Target Group

SUGGESTED CURRICULUM LINKS: English, Modern Foreign Languages, Geography, Politics and Society, Senior Gaeilge.

STEP 2: Pick a Global Theme

The main global justice themes for Goal 4 are:

- Quality Education
- **Access to Education**
- Global Citizenship Education

We suggest you cover Quality Education first.

Target 4.1: By 2030, ensure that all girls and boys complete free, equitable and quality primary and secondary education leading to relevant and effective learning outcomes

Target 4.3: By 2030, ensure equal access for all women and men to affordable and quality technical, vocational and tertiary education, including university.

- For a good overview of Global Goal 4 Quality Education for teachers-go to <https://globaldimension.org.uk/wllgoal/quality-education/>
- Development Perspectives have an information toolkit as part of their SDG Challenge series.
- <https://www.developmentperspectives.ie/SDGChallenge/InformationPacks/SDG%204%20Quality%20Education.pdf>

STEP 3: Explore Theme-TEACHING AND LEARNING MATERIALS:

When exploring any theme, be sure to read for guidance on the approach:

- **WWGS How to Guide** <http://www.worldwiseschools.ie/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/GCE-How-to-guidebook-web.pdf>
- Teaching for sustainable development through ethical global issues pedagogy: <https://globaldimension.org.uk/resource/guidance-on-teaching-complex-global-issues-resource-for-secondary-teachers/>

Where do I start with Access to Education?

Explore the Barriers to Access to Education

Ask the students to work in groups/pair and share on all the reasons why people do not have access to education?

Concern and Global Citizen outline some barriers here:

<https://www.concernusa.org/story/barriers-to-education-around-the-world/>
<https://www.globalcitizen.org/en/content/10-barriers-to-education-around-the-world-2/>

They are all barriers to education there is no question about that however there are few that mention the underlying reasons why education is not being prioritised. It's important to explore with your students the underlying reasons WHY so many people do not have access to education. Here are a number of reasons WHY:

- Privatisation https://actionaid.org/sites/default/files/international_-_tax_privatisation_and_rte_report_-_summary_-_29.01.18.pdf
- Debt www.financialjusticeireland.ie
- Tax injustice- <https://www.christianaid.ie/campaigns/tax-justice-campaign>
<https://actionaid.org/publications/2018/making-tax-work-girls-education>
- Unfair financial system that favours Europe and America mean that many countries poverty rates continue to grow therefore having a detrimental effect on education.
- Racism <https://inar.ie/racism-and-education/>

Another way to phrase it is 'Who is being excluded?'

STEP 4: Students Sharing Learning

- Plan and run a quality education awareness campaign

- Conduct a case study on the education system focusing on the curriculum examine if it relevant to the children? You can also look at access to education (e.g. enrolment in primary education) in selected communities or countries.
- Celebrate UN International Literacy Day (8 September) or World Teachers' Day (5 October), International Day of Education (24 January) or take part in Global Action Week for Education in April every year.
- Facilitate discussion in your school and local community - Invite along local TDs and community members and start stimulating discussion on what we mean by quality education.
- Reach out to civil society and NGOs - Engage with civil society groups and NGOs on the issue of Education.
- Organise activities and demonstrations - it is important to increase the frequency and quality of media coverage on access to education.
- Encourage Discussion – the issue of access to education is still not very well known. Talk with your friends, family and community about quality education.
- Use social media to share information
- Have you heard any debates on the radio or news? If not, contact radio and TV broadcasters to ask for the debate to be publicised.

STEP 5: CREATE CHANGE

- Go to www.Uplift.ie. This is a good platform to find out what grassroots campaigns are happening. You can also start your own campaign here too.

There's plenty of teaching resources for exploring Education-most focus on access to education and do not address the root causes of why the Goal of Quality Education has not been reached. It's important to explore with your students the underlying reasons WHY quality education is not the reality for many communities around the world. Here are a number of reasons WHY:

- Debt
- Tax injustice- <https://www.christianaid.ie/campaigns/tax-justice-campaign>
- Unfair Trade
- Unfair financial system

Go to www.financialjustice.ie for resources to explore these issues.

- The Global Campaign for Education- www.campaignforeducation.org
- UK based campaign with good resources to explore education www.sendmyfriend.org
- Campaign for better pay and conditions for teachers worldwide go to Education International for details on this and other education campaigns and information. <https://www.ei-ie.org>
- Campaign for increased financing to education globally- <https://www.campaignforeducation.org/en/what-we-do/campaigns/education-financing/>
- Campaign for an increased percentage of overseas development aid to go to Education Programmes-contact the Minister for Overseas Development Aid Colm Brophy and ask how much of Ireland's overseas aid goes to education programmes.
- Getting in touch with your local politicians and talk about you learned and what needs to be done for Ireland to play it's part in good quality education - Make an appointment with your TD, phone, use emails and Twitter to contact them directly.

Read the guidelines on Quality Education and Global Citizenship Education to further explore this goal.