Celebrity Supporters

Every year the Global Campaign for Education receives support from an amazing array of individuals and organisations across the world, below are just a few who have shown their support to date.



Shakira

Grammy award-winning artist Shakira was the Honary Chair of GCE's Action Week 2008. She advocated for Education for All on a call with UK Prime Minister, Gordon Brown, and President of the World Bank, Robert Zoellick. She also joined young GCE campaigners from across the USA to lobby Members of the US Congress on the bipartisan Education for All Act of 2007 (EFA)

"I find it so inspiring that there are so many young people who care so deeply about the rights of all children to go to school that they would bring about this global movement."



Graca Machel

Graca Machel, is a long-time supporter of GCE, human rights activist, and wife of Nelson Mandela. In 2007 she addressed a donors meeting on education, on behalf of the Global Campaign for Education:

"Ministers and Commissioners, In 2000 we met in Dakar and we pledged to the children of the world that everything possible will be made to provide them with education. We even went further to say whenever a developing country had a plan in place, resources wouldn't be a problem... Now it's 2007, we don't need more pledges and words. What we need is to channel the needed resources to promote education to every single child in the world, whether in the developing world or the developed world. We all know the power of education to give a real start in life and to develop the full potential of every single human being, to fight poverty, to fight diseases, to



In 2006, Angelina Jolie was honorary chair of Global Action Week in the USA and championed the cause from Namibia in her final stages of pregnancy:

"As a parent, I want my children to be taught by great teachers, all children deserve this chance in life. I'm supporting the Global Campaign for Education's call that 'Every Child Needs a Teacher'. It's the least we should do for children - provide them with teachers."



Nelson Mandela

On the 10th April 2006, Nelson Mandela, another long-standing supporter of GCE, met young education campaigners in Mozambique and told them:

"Children of the world, now is the time for your generation to stand side by side together. Together, you can be the generation that sees every child get the education that is their right. World leaders have promised this and you must make sure they keep to it by joining together to speak with one voice. You are the future of this world and can change it for the better. You can make your leaders make their promises happen."



Queen Rania

In 2007, at the time of the mid-way point to the Education for All goals, Queen Rania added her voice to the Global Campaign for Education, and called upon all governments to provide good quality education to everyone, and make sure that girls in particular are helped to go to school.

"Education for All is not a suggestion, it is a global imperative. We owe it to the world's waiting girls and boys to give their cause our all."



Hillary Clinton

Hillary Clinton met with campaigners in 2005 as they handed her paper cut out 'buddies' with their messages asking to 'Send My Friend to School' and in 2004 she took part in the Action Week 'Big Lobby'.

"Supporting Education for All is not just the right thing to do, it's the smart thing to do."



Kofi Annan

In 2000, then UN Secretary General Kofi Annan gave a powerful message of support and encouragement to GCE:

"Individual NGOs have made remarkable contributions towards education in many countries, and they have now joined in a Global Campaign for Education. Today, I say to the NGO community: we cannot win the battle... without your expertise, your energy, and your capacity for action."



Kimani N'ganga

Kimani N'ganga made his first trip to school at the age of 84, when user fees were finally dropped in Kenya, becoming the World's Oldest Student. In 2005, he made another important journey, this time to the UN Millennium +5 summit in New York, where he supported the Global Campaign for Education and delivered his message to the UN that every person should have an education.

"For me, liberty means education... You are never too old to learn."



On South Africa's Freedom Day in 2006, popular Kwaito artist and human rights campaigner, Zola, asked the government what they were doing for schools.

"If the government can build four prisons, why can't they build one primary school and pay teachers well, because if they don't do this, these children will end up in prison."