



World Vision

PROTECTION, OPPORTUNITY, AND STABILITY

Protecting Girls' Access to Education Act (H.R. 2408; S. 1580)

QUICK FACTS

- » About half of the world's displaced people are children.¹
- » Refugees are five times more likely to be out of school than the global average.²
- » In 2014 alone, the refugee school-aged population grew by 30 percent.³
- » Just 1 percent of refugees will attend university.⁴
- » Less than 2 percent of global emergency aid was put toward education in 2016.⁵

Introduction

Of the 65 million people forced to flee their homes worldwide, about half are children. Globally, 91 percent of children attend primary school, but only 50 percent of refugee children⁶ are able to. Education offers opportunity, stability, and protection against trafficking, hazardous child labor, and early marriage—things children in refugee camps need most. In times of conflict, persecution, and displacement, the most vulnerable must be protected.

Why it matters

The world is seeing record numbers of displaced people. In these unstable situations, girls are at risk of child marriage and boys are often recruited for armed conflict and hazardous forms of child labor. Children with disabilities face even more challenges.

Globally, 59 million children of primary school age (5 to 11) are out of school. Half of this number can be attributed to conflict and fragility. Thirty million of the total are girls.⁷ However, schools can offer socioeconomic opportunities, psychological stability, and physical protection.

ASK The Protecting Girls' Access to Education Act (H.R. 2408; S. 1580) will prioritize support for displaced children, especially girls, to have access to primary and secondary education. **Please cosponsor the bill today.**



¹<http://www.unhcr.org/en-us/education.html>

²*ibid.*

³UNESCO Global Education Monitoring Report 2016: <http://gem-report-2016.unesco.org/>

⁴*ibid.*

⁵http://www.educationcannotwait.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/04/Master_document_web.pdf

⁶<http://www.unhcr.org/en-us/education.html>

⁷<https://data.unicef.org/topic/education/primary-education/>

⁸<http://www.unhcr.org/57d9d01d0>

⁹<http://www.unhcr.org/en-us/education.html>

¹⁰UNESCO Global Education Monitoring Report 2016: <http://gem-report-2016.unesco.org/>

¹¹Girls Not Brides, 2015, What is the Impact? <http://www.girlsnotbrides.org/what-is-theimpact/>

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Facts

- » More than 4.8 million Syrian refugees are registered with the United Nations, one-third of them of school age. In Jordan, only 70 percent of these children are enrolled in primary and secondary education; 40 percent in Lebanon; and 39 percent in Turkey. This means that nearly 900,000 school-age Syrian refugee children are not in school.⁸
- » In Kakuma refugee camp in northwest Kenya, there are only 22 primary schools to serve 60,000 children. And of 5,700 secondary school students in the camp, only one-fifth are girls.⁹
- » A 21-year U.N. study showed that regions with lower rates of education, and greater inequality in education, had a 50 percent greater chance of experiencing conflict and violence.¹⁰
- » If all girls received secondary education, child marriage for girls could fall by an estimated two-thirds, while 59 percent fewer girls would become pregnant in sub-Saharan Africa and south and west Asia—some of the regions where the most refugees are hosted.¹¹

ABOUT THE BILL

This bipartisan bill will further the small global aid investment toward education, and ensure refugees receive the schooling they need, by:

- Coordinating among governments, nongovernmental organizations, faith-based organizations, and communities to provide refugees safe, quality education
- Supporting innovative approaches to education where inclusion in local school systems is not possible or appropriate for displaced children
- Directing programs to evaluate the impact of programs on girls, looking specifically at child marriage, gender-based violence, and severe forms of human trafficking

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