



Ministerial Taskforce on Ending Violence in, Around and Through Schools: Declaration

18 May 2026, London

We, the Education Ministers and representatives participating in the Ministerial Taskforce on Ending Violence in, Around and Through Schools, met on the margins of the Education World Forum on 18 May 2026 to discuss progress and renewed our shared commitment to ensure schools are safe, inclusive, and enabling environments for all children and young people.

Recalling our collective leadership since 2024, including the Declaration of Intent issued in London in May 2024 and the founding of the Ministerial Taskforce at the Education World Forum in May 2025, we restate that violence in and around schools is unacceptable. It violates children's rights, undermines learning, and weakens the foundations of human and economic development.

Over the past year, Taskforce members have taken steps to elevate this issue nationally, regionally, and globally. We recognise progress made to integrate violence prevention and response within education systems, strengthen collaboration with partners, and maintain international attention on this previously neglected issue. We also recognise that challenges remain and that further action is urgently needed.

As we enter the next phase of the Taskforce's work, we reaffirm that education systems have a duty of care to protect learners, and that Ministries of Education have a central role in preventing and responding to all forms of violence in and around educational settings.

We therefore commit to:

- Sustaining political leadership on ending violence in, around and through schools, including by using our collective voice and influence to keep this issue high on national, regional and global education agendas, encouraging peers to endorse and implement the Safe to Learn Call to Action.
- Accelerating implementation of our existing commitments, with the aim of delivering tangible improvements in school safety, student wellbeing and inclusive learning environments.
- Encouraging peer learning and collaboration, sharing experience on what is working to strengthen prevention, response and accountability within education systems, and supporting countries to move from commitment to delivery.



- Reinforcing the role of education in tackling harmful social and gender norms and in promoting safe, inclusive and gender-equal learning environments for all children, including the most marginalised.
- Working with partners, including civil society, youth and survivor-led organisations, to support sustained progress, engagement and accountability.

We recognise that children today face multiple and intersecting challenges, including conflict, disruptions from climate change, and a global learning crisis. In this context, safe and enabling schools are not optional: they are fundamental to children's wellbeing, protection, and ability to learn.

In the lead-up to the Second Global Ministerial Conference to End Violence Against Children in Manila in November 2026, we commit to sustaining momentum, demonstrating progress, and strengthening collective action to ensure education sector leadership contributes meaningfully to ending violence against children.

Together, we reassert our determination to ensure that every child can learn in safety and, dignity, free from violence.