



Press Release 31/GCEA/WFW/04/08

THE WFWO TOOK ACTION TO SUPPORT GLOBAL CAMPAIGN EDUCATION FOR ALL “THE WORLD’S BIGGEST LESSON ON 23 April 2008”

This press release focuses on the tremendous efforts that are going into the World’s Biggest Lesson this week. Thousands of officials will be sitting at a class desk this week, as they’re taught the same lesson by remarkable children and young people. We hope that we’ll not only break the world record for the biggest ever lesson, that it will also be the first lesson for many children, and that it’ll be an important lesson to remember for many politicians.

On April 21, British Prime Minister Gordon Brown, World Bank President Robert Zoellick, and Grammy award-winning artist Shakira will participate in a media conference call to discuss the state of global education and out-of-school children in developing countries. This corresponds with the Global Campaign for Education (GCE) Action Week that will take place from April 21-27, 2008. Brown, Zoellick and Shakira will join with GCE’s coalition in 120 countries to call on government leaders to support a basic education for all children, including the 72 million young children and 226 million older youths who are out of school around the world.

More than 190 world leaders have committed to implement the eight Millennium Development Goals (MDG’s) to eradicate extreme poverty and hunger by 2015. Education gives people the skills and confidence to break out of poverty and build a better life. A third of all children out of school have a disability. Without making sure these children get a good education the cycle between poverty and disability will never be broken.

The event is an exciting time of year for education campaigners all over the world. 60 years after the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and half way to the Education for All goals deadline it’s unacceptable that millions of adults and children still have no education. The Global Action Week and the World’s Biggest Lesson is a crucial time for civil society to pressurize governments towards realizing Education for All by 2015.

“Learning and education are at the heart of all development and, consequently, of this global agenda. MDG 2 aims to ensure that children everywhere-boys and girls-will be able to complete a full course of good quality primary schooling. MDG 3 targets to eliminate gender disparity in primary and secondary education, preferably by 2005, and at all levels by 2015. ” quoted by Koichiro Matsuur.

The World’s Biggest Lesson on 23 April 2008, Campaign is promoted by our partner The Global Campaign for Education (GCE) is a movement to end the worldwide crisis in education. Thousands of development charities, trade unions and child rights groups make up the national coalitions in over 100 countries. Together we campaign and lobby governments to make sure they act now to deliver the right of every girl, boy, woman and man to a free, quality education.