

Coalition for Adolescent Girls* Statement of Support of the Protecting Girls' Access to Education in Emergencies

The Coalition for Adolescent Girls welcomes the bipartisan legislation introduced by Representative Chabot (R, OH-1) and Representative Kelly (D, IL-2), titled Protecting Girls' Access to Education in Vulnerable Settings Act. The bill is designed to ensure that the U.S. government's foreign assistance goes towards ensuring girls have access to education even when they have been displaced by conflict. There are more than 130 million girls out of school globally, and girls in conflict-affected settings are [2.5 times more likely to be out of school](#) than boys are.

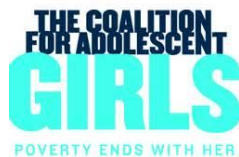
The Protecting Girls' Access to Education in Vulnerable Settings Act would authorize the Secretary of State and USAID Administrator to prioritize efforts to support both primary and secondary education for displaced children. The Coalition for Adolescent Girls (CAG) recognizes that the issues facing adolescent girls are complex and that the human right to education can and should not be violated at any time, including in conflict and displacement. Education is critical to individual human development and one of the most important investments that can be made in girls' lives to ensure they can thrive now and transition successfully into adulthood. The CAG particularly commends the focus of girls in this legislation, including Congress considering the specific needs of girls in the design, implementation, and evaluation of policies and programs.

As the legislation notes, displaced children face multiple barriers to education, which the CAG strongly feels must be addressed holistically and with girls' interests centered in programming. As the world's conflicts have become more protracted, [displacement can last, on average, almost 20 years](#) and many children spend their entire childhood without access to critical education that would allow them to thrive in childhood and navigate adulthood more successfully. At a time where unprecedented numbers of people are becoming refugees and internally-displaced persons, [half of whom are children](#), the CAG recognizes that increased attention must go towards these vulnerable youth, who should be seen as potential global assets worthy of such investments.

This bill would encourage countries hosting displaced persons to provide safe and quality education and enhance host governments' ability to coordinate among multiple actors including NGOs, multilateral donors, and civil society. The legislation also calls for the evaluation of the impact of education on other aspects of girls' lives, including gender-based violence, child marriage, forced labor, and human trafficking, which is information that should be shared with the field and add to current and ongoing research on this topic. We also fully support the legislation's call to coordinate with local civil society organizations, which are often best placed to understand the unique contexts of host communities and displaced peoples, but under-resourced.

***About the Coalition for Adolescent Girls**

The Coalition for Adolescent Girls includes more than 80 US-based organizations committed to working together on research, program implementation, policy and advocacy with and for adolescent girls. The CAG provides a unique platform for organizations to share information, tools, and resources; to find points of intersection and opportunities for collaboration; build technical capacity; and to strategize on best practices. For more information about the Coalition for Adolescent Girls, and our Policy Working Group, please contact Policy Lead and Steering Committee member Rachel Clement at rclement@icrw.org.



List of Supporting Organizations:

1. 4Girls GLocal Leadership (4GGL)
2. Advocates for Youth
3. African Solutions to African Problems
4. Aflatoun
5. AGE Africa
6. BRAC
7. CARE
8. Child and Youth Finance International
9. ChildFund International
10. Childreach International
11. ChildVoice International
12. CoCreate Global
13. Dance4Life
14. Educate Girls
15. Education for Equality International
16. Emerge Global
17. EngenderHealth
18. Equality Now
19. Every Mother Counts
20. Feminist Majority Foundation
21. FHI 360
22. Freely in Hope
23. Futures Without Violence
24. GADeF
25. GirlForward
26. Girl Effect
27. Girls Thinking Global
28. Girl Scouts
29. Girls Learn International, Inc.
30. Global Fund for Children
31. Global Youth Coalition on HIV/AIDS
32. GreeneWorks
33. GWU's Global Women's Institute
34. Haiti Adolescent Girls Network
35. Harpswell Foundation
36. Heshima Kenya
37. International Center for Research on Women
38. International Rescue Committee
39. International Women's Health Coalition
40. International Youth Foundation
41. IntraHealth International
42. IPPF/WHR
43. Institute for Reproductive Health
44. John Snow, Inc.
45. Just Like My Child Foundation
46. KASODEFO
47. Kakenya Center for Excellence
48. Komera
49. Let Girls Lead
50. Lwala Community Alliance
51. Maasai Girls Education Fund
52. Making Cents International
53. Marie Stopes International
54. Mercy Corps
55. Milaan Foundation
56. National 4-H Council
57. Partners of the Americas
58. Pathfinder International
59. Plan International USA
60. Population Council
61. Population Reference Bureau
62. Population Services International
63. Public Health Institute
64. Sacred Valley Project
65. Save the Children
66. Shadhika
67. Starfish
68. UN Women
69. UNESCO
70. United Nations Foundation
71. What Works Association
72. Winrock International
73. WomenOne
74. WomenStrong International
75. World Education, Inc.
76. Women's Global Education Project
77. Women's Refugee Commission
78. Women's World Banking
79. World Bank- Adolescent Girls Initiative
80. World Pulse
81. Zana Africa Foundation