



*In the framework of the Global Action Week (May 2-8, 2011), the coalition GCE-Belgium organizes a*

**SEMINAR**

**GIVE ACCESS TO EDUCATION  
TO ALL GIRLS AND WOMEN**

***Saturday 7th of May 2011, 9:00-18:30***

***Saint Marc Centre, 76 avenue De Fré, 1180 Uccle***

One of the critical issues of education in numerous Southern countries today is the right of girls to a quality education. Many of them still don't have access to school or to have to drop out before having acquired the basic skills essential to their personal development and that of their community.

***How can cooperation associations complement their regular activities with support to local civil society organisations in their advocacy for girls and women's education? What advocacy campaign should we lead here toward our governments to raise aid efficiency in this field? In other words, how can we encourage a local dynamic in favour of girls' education?***

The seminar will develop these issues around an introductory presentation about the general challenges of girls' education, and five workshops on specific themes:

1. **Girls' right to education in school:** In the school environment, how to make girls better aware of their right to education? For the girls: knowing their own rights; for the boys: respecting these rights; for the parents: preventing temptation to withdraw their daughters from school before completing the curriculum because of tradition or household work generally given to girls.

*Speaker & Chair: H el ene Ryckmans (Programme officer, Le Monde Selon les Femmes)*

2. **The role of the teachers:** How are the issues of equality between girls and boys and girls' empowerment included in the curriculum and promoted by the attitude and role of the teachers in the school environment? How can school personnel be sensitized and trained on these topics?

*Speaker & Chair: Anne-Marie Nzumba Nteba Lufevu (Director-Head of Department, Ministry of Primary, Secondary and Vocational Education of the DR Congo)*

3. **Education of girls out of school:** For girls outside primary and secondary education programmes, what is the role of the NGOs, the parents, the teachers, the public authority and how should advocacy campaigns be managed so that these girls become better aware of their right to quality basic education? How should functional literacy training be organised to take into account their professional obligations that might be at the origin of their dropping out of school?

*Speaker & Chair: Pilar Pineiro Perez (Project officer, Action D veloppement - Parrainage Mondiaux, ADPM)*

4. **Literacy training for women:** For women who did not complete formal primary school or are illiterate, how to organize their basic training through literacy training programmes (methods, time schedule, child care, competences to be acquired, curriculum, etc)?

*Speaker & Chair: Suzanne Hoogewys (Education management officer, Belgian Development Agency, BTC-CTB)*

5. **Socio-cultural factors of girls' under-schooling:** What are the socio-cultural factors that hamper girls' access to school in Africa? How to lift these barriers (such as forced marriages, early pregnancy, prejudice toward menstruation) to promote girls' schooling? What means to be put in place to correct the gender gap?

*Speaker & Chair: Albertine Tshibilondi (CEAF&RI Center)*

# PROGRAMME

9:00 – 9:30: Registration

9:30 – 10:30: Current situation of girls and women's education in the world

*Marie-France Lange, Head of research at the Institut de Recherche au Développement (IRD)*

10:30 – 11:00: Presentation of the issues to be covered in each working group

*Introduction by the chairs of each working group*

11:00 – 11:30: Coffee break

11:30 – 13:00: First working groups session

13:00 – 14:00: Lunch

14:00 – 15:00: Second working groups session (possible change of workshop)

15:00 – 15:30: Coffee break

15:30 – 16:45: Third working groups session: preparation of the conclusions of the working group

16:45 – 17:30: Presentation of the conclusions of the working groups to the Belgian Minister of Development cooperation (*or representative*).

17:30 – 18:30: Minister's reaction and cocktail

**Language:** *simultaneous English / French translation*  
*Dutch translation upon request*

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