



Irish Network for
Education Worldwide

Quality

Education

For All

Worldwide

Realising the **Right to**
Education for the Furthest
Behind

General Election Manifesto

Introduction

The Irish Network for Education Worldwide is a network of civil society actors and education stakeholders in Ireland dedicated to advocating for and mobilising efforts to advance Sustainable Development Goal 4 (SDG4) and **achieve inclusive, equitable, and safe quality education for all worldwide**, committed to reaching the furthest behind.

Prosperity through Education For All

Education is a human right and the **cornerstone of progress** in every society.

But worldwide education is at crisis. **251 million children are out-of-school** according to the UNESCO 2024/25 Global Education Monitoring Report. The UNESCO, the OECD, and the Commonwealth Secretariat demonstrated this year that skills deficits cost the world US\$10 trillion annually.

Education is a vehicle for achieving all Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Education creates foundations for **economic growth and stability**. Education **fosters peace**, mitigates climate change, increases health, and more.

It is an **effective development tool**: The UNESCO has shown that reducing early school leaving and ensuring every child acquires basic skills, provides not only economic returns. It also **combats poverty**, prevents child marriage and gender-based violence, decreases crime rates, and **improves health** and well-being.

Education is a Human Right

In the upcoming elections, we ask voters to **stand up for solidarity** and every child and adult realising their right to education – for a world that's better for all.

We call for the following actions by the next Government:

1 Increase Overseas Development Assistance towards Education.

Building on previous commitments, we call for an increase of the proportion of the Overseas Development Assistance (ODA) allocated to education to **address the critical gaps in global education** and to transform and build strong education systems for the most vulnerable with a focus on girls' education and education in emergency contexts. Ireland's longstanding commitment to education in overseas aid is well known, however, since 2020 the percentage of ODA spending on education has declined. It is time to turn the corner on ODA investment towards education to **achieve all SDGs**.

2 Realise Ireland's Commitment to spend 0.7% of GNI on ODA by 2030.

To achieve this, it is paramount that the next Government fulfils Ireland's commitment made in 2015 to fund development and humanitarian aid and **reach the UN target** of spending 0.7% GNI on ODA by 2030.

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according to the UNESCO 2024/25 Global Education Monitoring Report

3 Increase Climate Funding with a particular Focus on Education-Specific Projects.

Education serves as a critical tool for adapting to and **mitigating climate change**. Yet, climate change threatens the delivery of education, disproportionately impacting those already most vulnerable, including girls and women. The next Government needs to increase climate funding addressing child-related needs, with a particular focus on education-specific projects.



4

Sign the COP28 Declaration on the Common Agenda on Education & Climate Change.

The COP28 Declaration recognises and addresses the **Education-Climate Nexus** and 45 states have already signed on. Its progression at COP29 represents a pivotal opportunity to transition from dialogue to **tangible outcomes** and accountability.

We urge the next Government to sign the COP28 Declaration and to **lead in enhancing financing** and cross-sectoral collaboration, maximising the co-benefits of achieving inclusive quality education and promoting environmental sustainability.

US\$10 trillion
is the annual global
estimated
cost of skills deficits

6

Strengthen Education Financing through Tax and Debt Breakthroughs.

Achieving proper financing for global education requires more than increasing aid budgets. This is why we urge the next Government to support **reforms in tax, debt, and austerity**

Vote for
climate-resilient
schools worldwide

5

Advocate for Free Education for All on all International Policy Fora.

For millions of children around the world, the cost of education remains one of the most **significant barriers** to education, particularly at the pre-primary and secondary level. **Ireland's own economic transformation** is linked to access to quality education.

We call on the next Government to lead by example and support the global initiative to enshrine a new optional protocol to the **Convention on the Rights of the Child** guaranteeing rights to free quality education for all children.

measures, as well as advancing the UN Framework Convention on International Tax Cooperation, to **enhance the financial capacity** of countries worldwide to invest in education.

Demand with

Your Vote

Invest in **Overseas Development!**

Invest in **Education For All!**

Create **Positive Change Worldwide!**

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