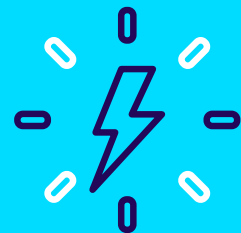
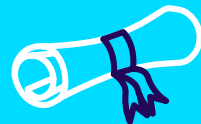


18–20 July 2023

Schools Connect

Creating more inclusive schooling

Cape Town, South Africa



Welcome



MARK HERBERT

Global Head – Schools, TVET & Non-Formal Education, British Council

On behalf of the British Council, I would like to welcome you to our conference ‘Creating More Inclusive Schooling’ here in the beautiful city of Cape Town. We are delighted to bring together policy makers from 15 countries to explore the challenges of creating high-quality, inclusive schools that can support all pupils to fulfil their potential.

We hope that the conference will enable you to engage in evidence-based research and practice from the UK and around the world as well as creating opportunities to exchange ideas and create long-term collaborative networks. We very much look forward to meeting you.



We are
delighted to
welcome you

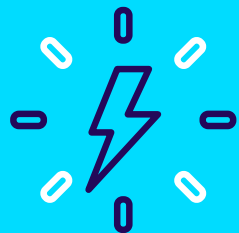
Introduction

Every country in the world needs a high-quality, inclusive and equitable school system that supports young people to develop the knowledge, skills and values to live and work in a globalised economy and to contribute responsibly both locally and globally.

The world has committed to inclusive education not by chance but because it is the foundation of an education system of good quality that enables every child, youth and adult to learn and fulfil their potential. Gender, age, location, poverty, disability, ethnicity, indigeneity, language, religion, migration or displacement status, sexual orientation or gender identity expression, incarceration, beliefs and attitudes should not be the basis for discrimination against anyone in education participation and experience. The prerequisite is to see learner diversity not as a problem but as an opportunity.”
GEM report, 2020, p.23 Summary

The British Council believes that the inclusion of children and young people into the education systems of their respective countries is an entitlement and a fundamental human right regardless of their gender, ethnicity, ability, socioeconomic background, health or medical condition. This supports and aligns to the UN Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) target 4.5: Eliminate gender disparities in education and ensure equal access to all levels of education and vocational training for the vulnerable, including persons with disabilities, indigenous people and children in vulnerable situations.

If the inclusion of all children and young people is to be successful and sustainable then it must be predicated on an approach that is achievable, empowering, and based upon a thorough and sensitive understanding of the current context of the particular school and education system. The commitment to developing inclusive practice therefore requires a multi-tiered response that addresses policy, practice and culture at all levels within the education system.



This conference aims to

- offer policy makers the opportunity to discuss their current context, policy direction and challenges in relation to inclusive education
- form international networks to discuss and debate educational issues, specifically, the issues associated with ensuring that all children have access to high quality education
- support the improvement and development of inclusive school systems by sharing international evidence, insight and effective practice into 'what works' in relation to creating more inclusive school systems

This will be a participatory event comprising a mix of keynote presentations, workshops, and group discussions to ensure that there is time for learning, reflection and networking. There will also be an opportunity to visit an inclusive school in Cape Town. The working language of the event will be English with simultaneous and consecutive translation offered into Arabic.



Programme

DAY 1

Creating more inclusive schooling

Tuesday 18th July 2023

8:00	Registration
9:00	Conference Opening Introductions and housekeeping <i>Susan Douglas, Senior Schools Adviser, British Council and CEO, The Eden Academy Trust, United Kingdom – Conference Chair</i>
9:10	Welcome <i>George Barrett, Country Director, South Africa</i>
9:20	The British Council work in Inclusive Education <i>Susan Douglas, Senior Schools Adviser, British Council and CEO, The Eden Academy Trust, United Kingdom</i> <i>Shingai Ziki, Regional Support Manager Schools SSA, British Council</i>
9:40	Keynote address <i>Berenice Daniels, Director: Inclusive & Specialised Education Support, Department of Basic Education Western Cape, South Africa</i> Followed by a conversation with <i>Selamawit Alemayehu, Regional Schools Director Sub-Saharan Africa, British Council</i>
10:25	Break
10:55	Workshops <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Workshop 1: Creating gender responsive schools <i>Honourable Mehnaz Akber Aziz, Parliamentary Secretary, Parliament of Pakistan, Pakistan</i> <i>Zenebech Zerfu Ayele, Gender and IE Trainer, British Council, Ethiopia</i> Facilitator: <i>Rukhsana Asim, Schools Programme Manager, British Council, Pakistan.</i> Room: Protea• Workshop 2: Education for all: effective schooling for pupils with a wide range of abilities <i>Joel Kamoko, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Education, Zambia</i> <i>Hilda El Khoury, Director of Education, Counselling & Guidance and Amal Chaaban, Head of Official Exams & General Secretary of Equivalence Department, Ministry of Education and Higher Education, Lebanon</i> Facilitator: <i>Karen Geagea, Education Project Manager, British Council, Lebanon</i> Room: Newlands. Arabic translation is provided for this workshop.• Workshop 3: The world from my window <i>Angela Affran, Technical Advisor for Schools Improvement, Ministry of Education, Ghana</i> <i>Kenneth Marangu, Deputy Director (Gender and Administration), Teachers Service Commission, Kenya</i> Facilitator: <i>Gabriel Quarshie, Project Manager, British Council, Ghana</i> Room: 12 Apostles
12:00	Lunch

Programme

DAY 1

Creating more inclusive schooling

Tuesday 18th July 2023

13:00	Plenary session: British Council research on Girls' Education <i>Dr Faith Mkwanzzi, Researcher, Panache Consulting, South Africa</i> Chair: <i>Lamrot Fikre Gebresilassie, Deputy Country Director, British Council, Ethiopia</i>
13:30	Plenary session From rights to reality: making inclusive education work <i>Yetneberesh Nigussie Molla, Programme Specialist (Children with Disabilities), UNICEF</i> Chair: <i>Susan Douglas, Senior Schools Adviser, British Council and CEO, The Eden Academy Trust, United Kingdom</i>
14.05	Workshops <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Workshop 4: The challenge of change: educating pupils who have been displaced <i>Dr Cleophus Mugenyi - Commissioner, Basic Education, Ministry of Education and Sports, Uganda</i> <i>Constance Alezuyo - Coordinator of Education Response Plan and Secretariate, Ministry of Education and Sports, Uganda</i> Language for Resilience: <i>Emily Ikiriza Nuwagaba, Project Manager, British Council, Uganda</i> Facilitator: <i>Emily Ikiriza Nuwagaba, Project Manager, British Council, Uganda</i> Room: Protea• Workshop 5: What matters? How do we value inclusive education through our quality assurance processes? <i>Abdallah Loucif, President of the National Programme Council, Ministry of National Education, Algeria</i> <i>Dr Mzikayifani Barney Johnson Mthembu, Deputy Director-General, Department of Basic Education, South Africa</i> Facilitator: <i>Marwa AbdelAzim, Project Manager, British Council, Egypt</i> Room: Newlands. Arabic translation is provided for this workshop.• Workshop 6: The world from my window <i>Dr Olubanke Folake Olatunji-David, Director, Basic Education, Federal Ministry of Education, Nigeria</i> <i>Motasim Billah Shah, Secretary, Elementary and Secondary Education, School Education Department, KP, Pakistan</i> Facilitator: <i>Jatau John, Programme Manager, British Council, Nigeria</i> Room: 12 Apostles
15.15	Break
15:45	Facilitated discussion workshops <p>These workshops will give delegates an opportunity to discuss some of the key issues raised in day one:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• What are the most important 'access and engagement' issues that countries are facing in relation to inclusion and what strategies are being used to overcome these?• If we agree that in order to create sustainable change around inclusion there may need to be fundamental changes to policy, practice and culture – what successful strategies have countries adopted around culture change?• How do we ensure the school workforce is both enabled and empowered to create more inclusive education? <p>Workshop 1: <i>Rukhsana Asim, Schools Programme Manager, British Council, Pakistan</i> Room: Protea</p> <p>Workshop 2: <i>Karen Geagea, Education Project Manager, British Council, Lebanon</i> Room: Newlands. Workshop held in Arabic.</p> <p>Workshop 3: <i>Rittika Chanda Parruck, Director Education, British Council, India</i> Room: 12 Apostles</p>
16:45	Close of day one Delegates to meet at reception for a short walk to dinner
18:30	Conference dinner at Bihari Indian Restaurant

Programme

DAY 2

Creating more inclusive schooling

Wednesday 19th July 2023

09:00	Delegates to meet at reception for transport to school visits
A.M.	Delegates take part in visits to inclusive schools in Cape Town
12:00	Return and lunch at the hotel
13:15	Facilitated discussion groups These workshops will give delegates an opportunity to discuss about the school visits: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• What were the key factors that you observed in the schools you visited that contributed to their success in creating an inclusive environment?• What are the principles that underpinned those factors?• Reflection question: how might you apply one or more of those principles to policy or practice in your own country? Workshop 1: <i>Jatau John, Programme Manager, British Council, Nigeria.</i> Room: Protea Workshop 2: Room: <i>Marwa AbdelAzim, Project Manager, British Council, Egypt.</i> Newlands. Workshop held in Arabic. Workshop 3: Room: <i>Shingai Ziki, Regional Support Manager Schools SSA, British Council.</i> 12 Apostles
14.10	Workshop 7: Leading inclusive schools <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Tumisang Thabela, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Education, Zimbabwe</i>• <i>Siân Williams, Inclusion Consultant, United Kingdom</i> Facilitator: <i>Roland Davies, Country Director Zimbabwe and Zambia, British Council</i> Room: Protea Workshop 8: The world from my window <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Zipporah Gikambi, Directorate of Policy, Partnerships & EACA, Ministry of Education, Kenya and Eva Muluve, Research Fellow, Population Council, Kenya</i>• <i>Dr Sahar Elalfy, Director of the General Administration for Inclusive Education, Ministry of Education, Egypt</i> Facilitator: <i>Darius Isaboke, Programme Manager, British Council, Kenya</i> Room: Newlands. Arabic translation is provided for this workshop Workshop 9: How do we embed inclusive education techniques into teacher training, increasing advocacy and changing mindset? <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Prof Rishikesh Shanker, Professor and Associate Director, School Education, Azim Premji University, India</i>• <i>Yvonne Chuulu, Director, Secondary Education, Ministry of Education, Zambia</i> Facilitator: <i>Ackim Banda, Country Manager, British Council, Zambia</i> Room: 12 Apostles
15.30	Plenary Session: Reflection – Research on inclusive education policy from the Middle East and North Africa region <i>Siân Williams, Inclusion Consultant, United Kingdom</i> Chair: <i>Susan Douglas, Senior Schools Adviser, British Council and CEO, The Eden Academy Trust, United Kingdom</i> Room: Newlands Forest
16:00	Close of day one
18:15	Delegates to meet at reception for transport to the conference dinner venue
18:30	Conference dinner at Pigalle Restaurant

Programme

DAY 3

Creating more inclusive schooling

Thursday 20th July 2023

08.30	Registration
09:00	Panel discussion: What have been the key themes and principles that have underpinned what we have heard, seen and discussed during the conference? <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Honourable Folasade Omobola Adefisayo, former Commissioner for Education, Lagos State, Nigeria• Honourable John Ntim Fordjour, Deputy Minister of Education, Ghana• Dr Joseph Emmanuel, India, Director Academics, Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE), India• Hilda El Khoury, Director of Education, Counselling & Guidance, Ministry of Education and Higher Education, Lebanon <p>Chair: Susan Douglas, Senior Schools Adviser, British Council and CEO, The Eden Academy Trust, United Kingdom Room: Newlands Forest</p>
10:00	Plenary session: Planning a road map for more inclusive schooling <p>Country delegations will have time to discuss and reflect on the conference considering how they might apply their learning on return.</p>
11:30	Break
12:00	Keynote address <p><i>Prof Tsitsi Chataika, Associate Professor of Inclusive Education and Disability Inclusion, University of Zimbabwe</i> <i>Followed by a conversation with Rittika Chanda Parruck, Director Education, British Council, India</i></p>
12:45	Conference closing remarks <p><i>Roland Davies, Country Director Zimbabwe and Zambia, British Council</i></p>
13:00	Close of conference and lunch
14:00	Delegates depart

Schools Connect

In many countries around the world there remain challenges in securing high quality, inclusive school education, particularly in relation to the quality of teaching and school leadership, the inclusion of marginalised children (especially girls and those with SEND) and the effectiveness and relevance of the curriculum.

The British Council is uniquely positioned to support school reform and development in these areas by connecting Ministries of Education and other stakeholders to UK expertise, in direct response to their requests, through policy dialogue, advocacy and technical assistance.

Through our Schools Connect programme, we partner with governments and educators to improve quality in education and bring an international perspective to the curriculum. We create opportunities to explore common challenges and school system development around the world. Our work helps all young people to develop their international understanding and build the skills, knowledge and attitudes they need to respond to global challenges now and in the future.



Schools Connect research and policy

Every country in the world needs a high-quality, inclusive and equitable school system that supports young people to develop the knowledge, skills and values to live and work in a globalised economy and to contribute responsibly both locally and globally.

Barriers to girls' education: a synthesis of British Council research in Africa

We are pleased to be launching our report 'Barriers to girls' education: a synthesis of British Council research in Africa'. By synthesising the research findings from Ethiopia, Kenya, Nigeria, Sudan and Tanzania this report highlights the barriers and constraints that remain to achieving gender transformative education in low-income contexts, drawing together similarities and opportunities for improving the ecosystems that surround girls' education. We hope that it will contribute to the discourse on this complex area of inclusion.

