

Ms. JULIE MUSK
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Canada

EDUCATION CHANGES THE WORLD

Dear Ms. [REDACTED],

The rise and persistence of conflict and terrorism in the world today is of increasing and urgent concern. While causes may be found in poverty, corrupt regimes, civil wars and sectarian conflicts, tangible solutions to stem its growth seem ever elusive.

As countries struggle to coordinate strategies to combat violence and negotiate political solutions, the sheer numbers of people displaced continue to grow. More than **15 million are now living as refugees**. Many have fled violent conflicts in their home countries years ago and cannot yet safely return.

The United Nations High Commissioner of Refugees (UNHCR) reports that, in Syria, for example, the three-year old civil war has produced nearly 3 million refugees. The war will also negatively affect Syria's human development as nearly **3,000 schools have been destroyed** and 49% of children have been forced to quit or leave their schools. The impact will last for decades...

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Similarly, decades of conflict have exacted a heavy toll on the people in the Horn of Africa and parts of central Africa where many youth have not had the opportunity to attend school or training programs. **The national literacy rate, in South Sudan, for example, is one of the lowest in the world.** Even with millions of dollars in humanitarian aid and emergency funds, the future will remain exceedingly grim.

State collapse and attacks on schools destroy possibilities for education - often the only hope left. Youth, between the ages of 15 to 34, are the world's largest age group and **the economic and social consequence of not educating vulnerable youth in their formative years is immense.**

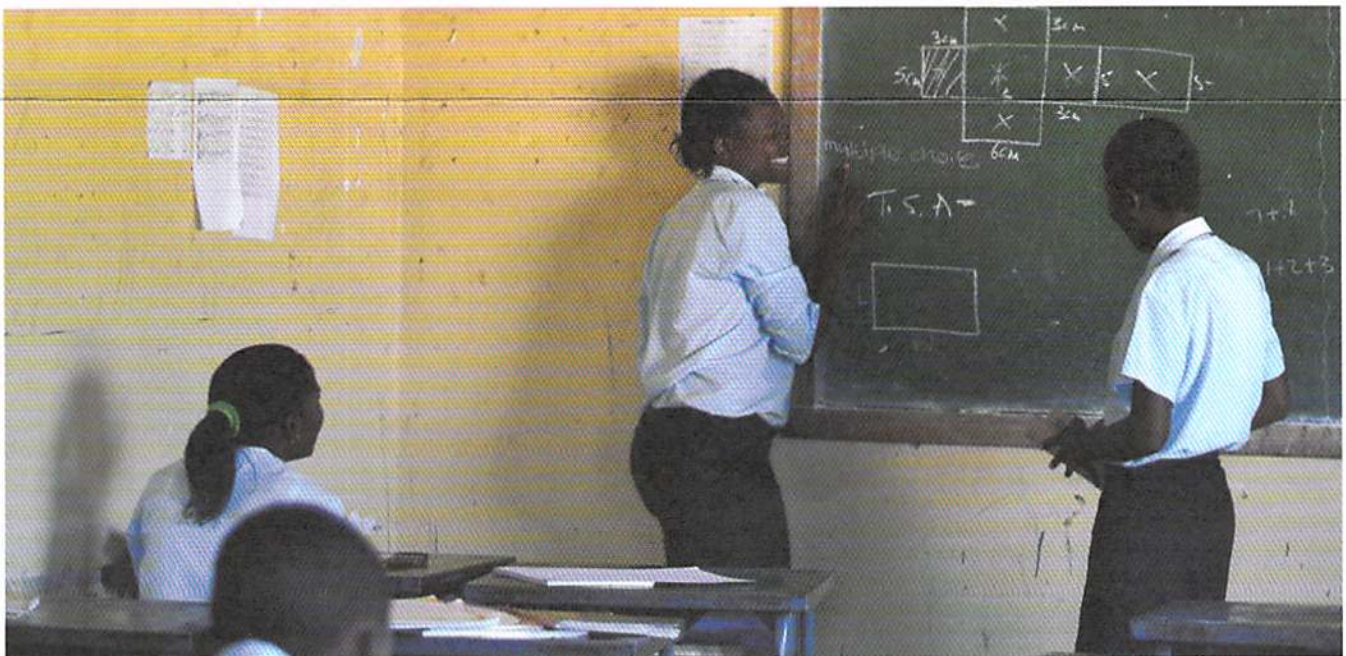


Desperation, poverty and despair can provoke violence and extreme behaviour. What can be done? What is the best way to help? How can we change the conditions that feed instability in our world?

We are WUSC - and **we know that education is a game changer.** With the right skills, knowledge and opportunities, youth have the potential to provide for their families, build strong communities and contribute to a more stable world. It is not the young people who are engaged in their studies and aspiring to productive new lives that fall prey to extremism, crime or violence. They know, or will soon realize, that other avenues are available to them.

WUSC has been working in the developing world for more than 65 years to improve lives through education and **our mission has never been more crucial than now...**


- **We are at the forefront of establishing and strengthening education and skills-training programs** to improve the lives and livelihoods of disadvantaged youth **in 20 developing countries** in Africa, Asia and Latin America.
- Economic studies have shown that **educated girls can turn the economy** of a village around and **girls' education** is a particular priority for us. A new project in Kenya will provide **greater access to education for 47,500 refugee girls**. This initiative will ensure that more girls stay in school, that more qualify for scholarships and that more can take active roles in the eventual reconstruction of their home countries.
- Afghanistan has the fastest growing population in the world and more Afghan children are going to school than ever before. WUSC is working with national authorities to **reform the education system** and increase the number and qualifications of teachers through training, upgrading and accreditation so that Afghan youth can create a stable future for their country.
- Now, a new initiative known as the **Borderless Higher Education for Refugees (BHER)** will offer higher education through a consortium of Kenyan and Canadian universities collaborating to create online and on-site university degree programs for refugees. Portable certificates, diplomas and degrees **displace ignorance, expand choices and provide constructive pathways** to better futures. Higher education offers refugees the best chance to re-build their home countries or resettle in a new land.



These innovative educational initiatives have the potential to mitigate despair, create hope and change the landscape for refugees and their children. As Malala Yousafzai, the young Pakistani girl nearly killed for daring to go to school, said "One child, one teacher, one book and one pen can change the world". We couldn't agree more. WUSC stands beside Malala and the many girls - and boys - she represents who want to get an education and lead productive lives.

Join us. If you believe - as we do - that education can change the world, make a **\$50, \$100 or \$200** donation to WUSC today and be a part of the solution. Invest in the future by creating hope, optimism and stability - your donation **will** make a difference!

Sincerely,



Chris Eaton

Executive Director | World University Service of Canada

P.S. - Serious issues call for serious commitment. Consider becoming a monthly donor.

