

Gender and Education: International Challenges under the Microscope 20 and 21 March 2019, Muntpunt, Brussels

GENDER EXPO (under construction)

Wednesday 20 March 12:30 – 13:45
Thursday 21 March 09:30 – 10:15 and 12:15 – 13:00

Gender and Education in Rwanda

After the civil war of the nineties ended, Rwanda rebuilt a society where at least 30 percent of the decision-making must be executed by women by law, integrating an international gender policy in all government programmes and non-governmental organisations. Thanks to this, the number of women taking up a more prominent role in the community exceeded this quorum by far. Additionally, the government successfully strives to include more girls and young women in education, making Rwanda the top African country on the [Global Gender Gap Report 2018](#), proudly coming in as the fourth most gender progressive country in the world. Yet despite their best efforts, the country seems to struggle with similar gender issues as Flanders.

Gender and education in Cambodia

Cambodia has a long history of gender inequality. Traditional gender norms make school-related gender-based violence one of the most important challenges for gender equality in the country. An injustice the government tries to tackle by protecting children's right to education and placing gender on the agenda of trainings for teachers and school leaders, creating a positive climate for change.

RoSa's pop-up library

Hit the books in the mobile library of [RoSa vzw, Flanders' expertise centre on everything gender and feminism](#). The staff will be ready and willing to share their knowledge and expertise.

KLASSE in Cambodia

In November 2018, an editor and photographer of [KLASSE](#) travelled to Battambang to collect stories about education in Cambodia. In-depth interviews and talks on education, poverty, parental participation and gender gave Cherline and Kevin a unique insight into the lives and work of school leaders and teachers. During the Gender Expo, Cherline will share the piercing portraits of four motivated educational professionals.

TVET and girls – [Educaid.be](#)

A 2017 study commissioned by Plan International Belgium, [Enhancing the contribution of the Belgian TVET programmes to girls' empowerment](#), focuses on the participation of girls in TVET programmes. The main finding of the study is that it is essential to act now for girls' empowerment by addressing strategies to enable their access to TVET programmes, completion of these programmes and participation in transition activities towards decent work. Several members of the [Educaid.be platform](#) have pooled their efforts to illustrate the study's proposed approaches with good practices. During the Gender Expo, Maartje will demonstrate the website [TVET and Girls](#) where the findings of the study and the illustrations are collected for your inspiration.

CHanGE, campaign for sexual health & gender equality – UCOS (TBC)

[ChanGE, Campaign for sexual Health & Gender Equality](#) is a project of [UCOS](#) on gender equality and sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR). Together with students and partner organisations, UCOS strengthens the support for a global struggle towards gender equity and equal access to SRHR in Flanders.

iGROW Surinam

Lower secondary vocational training (LBO) in Surinam is often a last resort for youngsters that drop out of general education. LBO caters to a lot of vulnerable youth who deserve extra attention to maximise their chances of decent work. A safe learning environment is crucial. But due to complex issues like traditional gender norms, aggressive behaviour and sexually transgressive behaviour, the teacher is unable to do everything by him/herself. VVOB's [iGROW](#) project turns to the wider school environment as a powerful tool. External expertise is brought into the schools, and values are strengthened. Schools also engage in conversations with parents.

Hans De Greve, VVOB education advisor, shares the objectives, activities and results of the iGROW-project.

GRP4ECE

SDG 4 focuses on quality and inclusive education and stresses the importance of gender equity. Girls and women still face obstacles when claiming their right to education, more than boys. There are many root causes, but an important one is the lack of gender-responsive schooling. VVOB and the African NGO FAWE join forces in Rwanda, Zambia and South Africa to encourage early childhood education teachers to proactively address all learners in their lessons through the development of a gender responsive toolkit.