



United Kingdom  
National Commission for UNESCO



## **Learning and Teaching Scotland, UK National Commission for UNESCO in Scotland and Scottish Qualifications Authority**

### **Press Release**

**Embargoed until 00.01, Friday April 30, 2010**

### **REACHING THE MARGINALISED Reflecting on the Education for All Global Monitoring Report**

Keith Brown, Scotland's Minister for Skills and Lifelong Learning, is set to be the keynote speaker at a high profile UNESCO seminar being held at the Scottish Parliament today.

Organised by the UK National Commission for UNESCO, and supported by Learning and Teaching Scotland (LTS) and the Scottish Qualifications Authority (SQA), the seminar will bring together key players from the education and international development sectors to discuss UNESCO "Education for All Global Monitoring Report 2010" focus on reaching the Marginalised in Education.

Eminent UNESCO speakers will come together with representatives from LTS, SQA, researchers and NGOs such as Concern Worldwide and Save the Children, to discuss how Scotland is working towards reaching its own marginalised group in education as well as marginalised children in the rest of the world.

Keith Brown, Minister for Skills and Lifelong Learning, said: "UNESCO has highlighted the very real danger of a lost generation of children in the poorest countries in the world – blighted by the impact of the global economic downturn and denied access to the education they deserve.

"We are fortunate in Scotland that the right to education is protected, but we recognise the challenges of ensuring the most marginalised members of our society can realise their potential.

"That's why in Scotland we are taking forward vital changes in Scottish education, which will help ensure all young people have the chance to become responsible global citizens."

Joanne Orr, CEO of Museums Galleries Scotland and Chair of the UKNC for UNESCO Scotland Committee said: "With 72 million children still out of school worldwide, and education systems affected by the global economic downturn, poverty, social exclusion, disability and inequalities can interact to lock disadvantaged groups into extreme educational disadvantage. Through its engagement with UNESCO, Scotland can contribute to the sharing of good practice and ideas which will enable us to reach the Education for all goals"

Professor Kay Livingston, Director of International, Research and Innovation at LTS, said: "Through the promotion of developing global citizenship within Curriculum for Excellence, the Scottish education system is addressing many of the key issues in the Global Monitoring Report.

“At LTS we are committed to ensuring young people develop an understanding about what it means to be a global citizen.”

Dr Lena Gray, Head of Policy and New Products at SQA, said: "SQA believes that all learners should have the opportunity to fulfil their potential. We offer a range of qualifications, specifically designed to give more choices and opportunities for those vulnerable, disengaged and hard-to-reach young people who may need more support."

For further information and to access the full report, please visit [www.unesco.org/en/efareport](http://www.unesco.org/en/efareport)

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**Notes to editors:**

1. The UK National Commission (UKNC) for UNESCO in Scotland is the focal point in the UK for UNESCO-related policies and activities. As an independent body, the UKNC brings together a network experts from across Scotland in the fields of education, culture, sciences and communication. Working closely in partnership with the Scottish Government and civil society, the UKNC in Scotland aims to provide expert advice to Government on UNESCO related matters, develop UK input into UNESCO policy-making and programme implementation, promote reforms within UNESCO, and encourage support in the UK for UNESCO's ideals and work. UNESCO is the UN Agency leading the global Education for All movement, aiming to meet the learning needs of all children, youth and adults by 2015.  
[www.unesco.org.uk/Scotland](http://www.unesco.org.uk/Scotland)
2. Learning and Teaching Scotland (LTS) is the national body responsible for reviewing the curriculum, developing assessment to support learning and providing advice to the education system on the use of ICT to support learning and teaching. We provide advice to Scottish Ministers on all matters related to learning and teaching, the curriculum, assessment and ICT. In addition, we manage the provision of the national ICT infrastructure to support

education, Glow, the LTS Online Service and the local authority Interconnect. We work with partners to manage the effective provision of research and professional development.

[www.ltscotland.org.uk](http://www.ltscotland.org.uk)

3. The Scottish Qualifications Authority (SQA) is the national accreditation and awarding body in Scotland.

SQA works in partnership with schools, colleges, universities and industry to provide high quality, flexible and relevant qualifications and assessments - embedding industry standards where appropriate. We strive to ensure that SQA qualifications are inclusive, accessible to all, that they provide clear progression pathways, facilitate lifelong learning and recognise candidate achievement.

There are approximately 1,470 centres approved to offer our range of qualifications.

Find out more – [www.sqa.org.uk](http://www.sqa.org.uk)