



3 November 2022



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Background

In 2019, 193 UNESCO Member States unanimously approved the creation of the [International Day against Violence and Bullying at School Including Cyberbullying](#), recognizing that school-related violence in all its forms is an infringement of children and adolescents' rights to education and to health and well-being. It calls for the strengthening of partnerships and initiatives that accelerate progress to prevent and eliminate violence and bullying at school including cyberbullying.

The International Day has been celebrated on the first Thursday of November every year since its inception, under the theme "Together against bullying in school" in 2020, and "Tackling cyberbullying and other forms of online violence involving children and young people" in 2021. In 2022, the International Day will be celebrated on Thursday 3 November, under the theme ***"Not on my watch: The role of teachers in preventing and addressing violence and bullying at school including cyberbullying"***.

Rationale

Effective, evidence-based approaches to preventing and addressing school violence use a holistic model, known as the whole-school approach. Such a holistic approach incorporates a range of complementary actions and necessitates the engagement of different stakeholders both within and outside of the school setting.

Teachers play a critical role within the holistic approach: Teachers are essential in creating psychologically and physically safe school and classroom environments and their relationship with students is key in preventing and addressing school violence. They can model caring and respectful relationships and guide students in taking action themselves through student-led initiatives and peer approaches. Teachers are also in a unique position to recognize and respond to incidents of violence and connect students with referral services when needed. In addition, teachers provide a link between school and community through their relationship with parents. Last but not least, teachers are an important resource in generating evidence and assessing what works at the school level.

However, teachers need training and support to play this critical role. A global online survey conducted by UNESCO in 2020 found that almost half of the teachers surveyed say they received little or no training on school violence and bullying during their pre-service education, and more than two-thirds say that they have learned how to manage school violence through experience. Three in four teachers surveyed can identify physical and sexual violence yet are less likely to recognise some forms of psychological violence. Even if the teachers surveyed can identify school violence including bullying, and four in five say it is their responsibility to create a safe learning environment, they do not always intervene. Four in five help victims, but only half engage with students who witness violence.

The Transforming Education Summit (TES) which was convened by the UN Secretary General during the 77th UN General Assembly on 19 September 2022 and the pre-summit that took place at the end of June in Paris seek to mobilize political ambition, action, solutions and solidarity to transform education. The place and role of teachers in this transformation process was at the centre of the TES discussions. Among the five thematic tracks of action proposed for the pre-summit, two focused on “Inclusive, equitable, safe and healthy schools” and “Teachers, teaching and the teaching profession.”

An international seminar at UNESCO Headquarters will therefore help build on and amplify the outcomes of the Transforming Education Summit and raise global awareness of and commitment to strengthening the role of teachers in preventing and addressing school violence including bullying.

Intended audience

The audience for this event will be all stakeholders concerned with safe and non-violent learning environments for all learners through preventing and addressing school violence including bullying and gender-based violence. This includes primarily ministries of education, teacher training institutions, teachers and teacher unions, student unions, children and young people, parents and parent-teacher associations and development partners.

Objectives

- Release new data and recommendations on teachers' perceptions and practice in preventing and addressing school violence;
- Facilitate sharing of experiences and perspectives of key stakeholders in the holistic approach to preventing and addressing school violence including bullying and gender-based violence (representatives of learners, teachers/teacher unions, MOE officials, development partners such as Safe to Learn, Global Network on SRGBV, etc.), and provide an update on the activities conducted by UNESCO on supporting education sector responses to school violence, and showcase innovations by Member States in this area;
- Increase the visibility of the International Day against Violence and Bullying at School including Cyberbullying, and raise global awareness of and commitment to strengthening the role of teachers in preventing and addressing school violence including bullying.

Format

A 2-hour seminar at UNESCO Headquarters, involving invited speakers and all Member States represented by the UNESCO Permanent Delegations, as well as other education and development partners. Simultaneous interpretation will be provided in English, Spanish and French. The session will be livestreamed to involve virtual attendees from different regions of the world. The recording will be posted on the UNESCO website/YouTube page.

The seminar will be organized by UNESCO in cooperation with the UNESCO Chair on Tackling Bullying at School and Cyberspace, Safe to Learn, Global Working Group to End School-Related Gender-Based Violence and Education International. Within UNESCO, the Section of Health and Education is working in conjunction with the UNESCO Section for Teacher Development to organize the event.

Programme overview

Timing	Agenda items and speakers
14:00 – 14:05	Introduction to the seminar Mr Chris Castle, Chief, Section of Health and Education, Education Sector, UNESCO
14:05 – 14:25	Opening session Moderator: Mr Chris Castle, Chief, Section of Health and Education, UNESCO <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Introductory remarks: Ms Stefania Giannini, Assistant Director-General for Education, UNESCO• Keynote speech: Dr Najat Maalla M'jid, UNSG Special Representative on Violence against Children
14.25 – 14.30	Short video: Not on my watch: Teachers' voices on school violence

14:30 – 14.40	<p>Presentation: Key findings and recommendations from the UNESCO Technical Brief on the role of teachers in preventing and addressing school violence</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms Joanna Herat & Mr Yongfeng Liu, Section of Health and Education, UNESCO
14:40 – 15:25	<p>Panel discussion: Experiences and perspectives of teachers and teacher unions, and effective mechanisms to ensure teachers can play their role in preventing violence</p> <p>Moderator: Ms Leila Loupis, Senior Programme Specialist, Section for Teacher Development, UNESCO</p> <p>Panelists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr Mongkol Imsuwan, English teacher, Maptaphutphanphittayakarn Secondary School, Mueang Rayong District, Rayong 21150, Thailand • Mr. Martin Lally, Assistant Chief Inspectorate, Department of Education, Ireland • Mr Basil Manuel, Executive Director, The National Professional Teachers' Organisation of South Africa (NAPTOSA) • Ms Krissy Pintado, Education Specialist and Psychologist, Piura, Peru • Prof. Yuichi Toda, Faculty of Education, Osaka Kyoiku University, Japan
15:25-15:30	<p>Short video: Don't Fail Us: Josephine from Sierra Leone calling for action to make education safe for all girls</p>
15:30 – 15:55	<p>Q&A and discussion</p> <p>Moderator: Dr. Chloë Fèvre, Director, Safe to Learn</p> <p>Discussants:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Pip Gardner, Chief Executive, The Kite Trust, United Kingdom • Mr Darran Heaney, Director of Engagement at the UNESCO Chair on Tackling Bullying on Tackling Bullying in Schools and Cyberspace
15:55 – 16:00	<p>Concluding remarks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms Joy Phumaphi, Executive Secretary of the African Leaders Malaria Alliance (ALMA), Co-Chair of the UN Secretary-General's Independent Accountability Panel for Every Woman, Every Child, Every Adolescent and Chair of the Safe to Learn Advisory Board