

## FACT SHEET | EDUCATION AND HUMAN RIGHTS

### The Scope

- In 1948, the United Nations General Assembly signed the **Universal Declaration on Human Rights**. This document expresses the most basic rights for every citizen of the world.
- **Human rights belong to everyone.** The Universal Declaration of Human Rights covers five types of rights: economic, social, cultural, civil and political.
- Other human rights documents reaffirm education as a human right. These documents include the **International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights** and the **Convention on the Rights of the Child**.
- The **Convention on the Rights of the Child** was agreed by the United Nations General Assembly in 1989 and was ratified by **191 out of 193** countries, making it a truly global bill of rights. **Only the United States and Somalia** have yet to ratify the Rights of the Child.
- **The Convention on the Rights of the Child** states that countries should make “primary education compulsory and **available free to all.**” However, many countries **continue to charge fees for schooling.** These fees keep many children out of school. Although these fees can be small, as little as **\$50-\$100 a year**, the cash expense is too much for poor families and impossible for orphaned children.
- When governments eliminate school fees like they did in Kenya, Uganda and Malawi, **millions of new students turn up at school**, as much as doubling the number of students.

**“Everyone has the right to education. Education shall be free, at least in the elementary and fundamental stages.”**

*Article 27 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, 1948*



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### Get Involved! Join Up: Education Rights Now

- The Global Campaign for Education’s Annual Action Week for Global Education will be held on April 23-29, 2007. Register to participate at [www.campaignforeducationusa.org](http://www.campaignforeducationusa.org).