



## Factsheet: Resolution to Protect Children from Attacks on Education in Conflict

### Why Congress Must Act

Access to safe and quality education is key to securing children's futures. But, in times of war, children's education is often disrupted leaving them without critical support for learning, growth and stability.

In conflicts around the world, schools are being deliberately bombed, torched and destroyed. Students and teachers are threatened, killed, raped, kidnapped and recruited by armed groups at and on the way to school.

Attacks on education often have a disproportionate impact on girls. In some areas, school girls have been specifically targeted for sexual violence by armed groups that oppose female education. The threat of gendered violence contributes to heightened fears and, in turn, limits girls' social mobility, including access to education.

Quality educational opportunities in conflict zones can contribute to peace and security, help prevent future violence, protect children from harm and support mental health. Yet, despite its critical and lifesaving role, education in humanitarian response settings is not receiving the funding or priority it should.

### A Resolution to Stop Attacks on Schools

At a time when there are 142 million children living in high-intensity conflict zones, it is critical for Congress to act to condemn attacks on schools and underscore the importance of education for children affected by conflict. A bipartisan resolution calls on the U.S. government to take 12 critical steps, including to:

- Hold perpetrators of attacks on schools, students and teachers **accountable**.
- Support **policies and programs** to return refugee girls and boys to learning as soon as possible.
- **Monitor attacks** on schools, students and teachers to support coordinated diplomacy and programs.

**Call to Action:** Urge your member of Congress to support this critical resolution to ensure children living in conflict zones have access to safe and quality education. Visit [SavetheChildrenActionNetwork.org](http://SavetheChildrenActionNetwork.org) to take action today!

#### By the Numbers: The Education Crisis in Conflict Zones

**27 million**

# of children out of school in 24 conflict-affected countries

**1,432**

# of attacks on schools verified by the United Nations in 2017

**4 million**

# of refugee children out of school

**1 in 3**

# of schools destroyed, damaged or occupied in Syria and South Sudan

**<2%**

Less than 2% of all funding for humanitarian responses goes toward education