

MODEL LETTER OF ENDORSEMENT (to be amended as appropriate)

Your organization's letterhead

Diya Nijhowne
Director, Global Coalition to Protect Education from Attack
Secretariat Office
350 Fifth Avenue, 34th Floor
New York NY 10118

[DATE]

-DRAFT-

Re: Principles of State Responsibility Campaign

Dear Ms. Nijhowne:

By this letter I wish to convey the support of the [ORGANIZATION] for the Coalition's Principles of State Responsibility Campaign.

The [ORGANIZATION]'s [EXECUTIVE OFFICE, COMMITTEE, BOARD or MEMBERS] agree that quality higher education depends on having a safe place to teach, learn and work. They are concerned by reports of attacks on higher education communities, including those contained in the Coalition's report *Education Under Attack 2014*, and support the Coalition's efforts to raise awareness of the problem. They also appreciate the unique role of States in protecting higher education, consistent with the values essential to quality higher education, and stand ready to assist our respective State partners in this regard.

As part of the [ORGANIZATION]'s support for the campaign we have circulated the campaign brochure to our members and posted information about the campaign on our website and email lists. We have also communicated our support for the campaign to our state partners, encouraging their positive consideration. We would like to invite you to present information on the campaign at our upcoming [MEETING or CONFERENCE TYPE] on [DATE] at [LOCATION]. We would also be interested in learning more about the Coalition's Higher Education Working Group and how the [ORGANIZATION] might get more involved.

Sincerely,

[ORGANIZATION REPRESENTATIVE]

Your organization's letterhead

[Name]
[Title]
[Organization]
[Address]
[Date]

Re: Support for HRC resolution on the right to education

Dear [State representative]:

I am writing on behalf of [organization] seeking the support of [State] for the inclusion of language on the issue of attacks on higher education in this year's Human Rights Council resolution on the right to education. The recent tragedy at Garissa University College in Kenya only reminds us of the urgency, and we hope [State] will play a leading role.

Attacks can have a devastating impact on targeted individuals and institutions, on the quality of research outputs and teaching, and on access to higher education. They can also undermine higher education values, and limit cross-border institutional affiliations and student and faculty exchanges. While non-state actors are often implicated in attacks, states and state-entities bear primary, sovereign responsibility to protect higher education. Recognizing this and the global, negative impact that attacks have on the realization of the right to education, the Higher Education Working Group (HEWG) of the Global Coalition to Protect Education from Attack (GCPEA) (a coalition of leading international organizations including CARA, Human Rights Watch, the Institute of International Education's Scholar Rescue Fund, Protect Education in Insecurity and Conflict, Save the Children International, Scholars at Risk, UNICEF, UNESCO, and UNHCR) developed, in cooperation with a range of higher education associations from Europe, Africa, the Middle East and the Americas, the [*Principles of State Responsibility to Protect Higher Education from Attack*](#) (the Principles). The Principles have already been endorsed by associations representing over 1200 universities, 120,000 researchers, and 11 million students in 57 countries.

[Our organization is among those that have endorsed the Principles.] We along with GCPEA and its members are now seeking wide international recognition the problem and the responsibility of States to protect schools and universities through inclusion of the below language in the annual Human Rights Council resolution on the right to education:

Deeply concerned with the ongoing problem of attacks on students, teachers, schools and universities, which impairs realization of the right to education and causes severe and long lasting harm to individuals and societies,

Recognizes the responsibility of States to provide safe schools and universities for all, and urges all States to strengthen the protection of schools and universities by:

- a) reviewing national laws to ensure that attacks on schools and universities are criminalized where necessary*
- b) investigating attacks on education, and prosecuting and punishing those responsible as appropriate;*
- c) making every effort to collect reliable relevant data with respect to attacks on education and*
- d) providing assistance to victims, on a non-discriminatory basis, towards the full realization of the right to education and their human rights generally.*

We respectfully urge that [State] support the inclusion of the above language in the upcoming Human Rights Council resolution. We thank you in advance for your consideration, and look forward to hearing from you.

Best,

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