

Story

KS 2 & 3 – David's story



David Archer is the Head of Programme Development at ActionAid, where he has worked for almost 25 years. For much of this time, David was in charge of ActionAid's education work. In 1999 he helped set up the Global Campaign for Education (GCE). This is an international group of charities, teachers' unions, and other organisations working to improve education.



David is passionate about international education. He believes it can make societies more equal and just. Years ago when David trained as a teacher, he became fascinated with a Brazilian educator called Paulo Freire. David says that Paulo: “wrote how education can be used as a way to transform people’s lives. I travelled to Latin America and spent five years researching his work, and had the good fortune to meet him several times”.

The GCE has been very successful: “In 1999 there were over 100 million children not in school. Today there are 50 million more children in school. One of the main reasons was the abolition of school user fees – children used to have to pay to go to primary school in over 90 countries. Another major change is that there are GCE campaigns in over 80 countries (including Send My Friend to School!) and because of this governments in Africa, Asia and Latin America feel that there is a strong community of people that are going to hold them to account.”

There are still challenges. The Millennium Development Goals of 2000 have not been met and 58 million children do not go to school. David tells us that quality is another challenge: “Millions of children are going to school but not learning. Another challenge is funding. This is why we are helping governments to raise money from taxes so that they do not have to rely on aid.”





David makes a lot of speeches. Here he is in the House of Commons telling everyone there is so much to do 2015.

TIMELINE – 2015

- “At the **beginning of 2015** there are a series of regional meetings so that governments and NGOs (charities) in different regions, e.g. Africa can agree on what these new goals should be.
- “Then there will be a global meeting in Korea in **May 2015** where the education community from all around the world will try and decide what the goals for education should be.
- “Then we have to look at how achieving these goals will be funded, and we’ll have separate meetings in Norway to Ethiopia in **July 2015** to agree this.
- “Finally, comes **September 2015** and the United Nations General Assembly in New York. The education community will be trying to make sure that the targets agreed in Korea are included in the Sustainable Development Goals that will be voted on at the United Nations.”

David says: “If I were a world leader I’d say that we need to put education at the heart of the Sustainable Development Goals. Not only is it crucial in itself that we achieve good progress on education and good quality education, but the achievement of that education is fundamental to all the other development goals, because we need to be creating global citizens for the future that are going to take seriously the goals that are agreed. So I think the big story is, make sure education isn’t just another goal, but that it underpins and is at the heart of all of them.”



58 million children are missing out on school – 2015 could change their future. Remind world leaders that they promised ALL children an education by 2015. Speak up for the right to education for every child.

www.sendmyfriend.org

Photos: Henry Nicholls/ActionAid; Mark Chilvers/ActionAid

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