



**Global Action Week for Education 2026 (GAWÉ 2026)
20 – 25 April 2026**

Youth event, Thursday 23 April 2026

Zoom login: https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_qBzWaYI0R-62iZE9NGUglQ

14:00 – 15:00 PM South African Standard Time

The Global Campaign for Education (GCE) will conduct its 24th annual campaign advancing the right to education through the Global Action Week for Education 2026 ([GAWÉ 2026](#)) on 20-25 April 2026.

Hold the Flame High for Education

The tagline for GAWÉ 2026, “Hold the Flame High” for education calls for governments and international partners’ unwavering leadership and commitment in guaranteeing the right to education for all. Faced with global contexts such as poverty exacerbated by the economic and oil crises, climate change, war, and conflict, the campaign reiterates the power of education to address the crises besetting people and the planet.

The campaign calls on all education advocates, teachers’ unions, youth and student movements, grassroots organisations, education coalitions, and diverse civil society organisations to persist in holding their governments to account for education.

With its 120 member organisations, GCE will drive a coordinated campaign during GAWÉ 2026 aimed at achieving four objectives:

1. Accountability to SDG 4: GCE is calling on governments and donors to honour their commitments, specifically following up on the Transforming Education Summit to ensure we 'Leave No One Behind'. It will advocate for ODA for education, not as charity but as a matter of global justice and reparation for historical injustices, and to address inequalities.

2. Financing Quality Public Education: GCE will lobby for the public provision of education. The campaign will challenge 'false solutions' and innovative financing schemes that put private profit above education as a human right and a public good.

3. Global Financial Reform: Education cannot be transformed without changing the global financial system. For governments to sustainably finance education, GCE will push for international tax justice and debt cancellation, continuing our advocacy for a substantive UN Framework Convention on International Tax Cooperation and lobbying for the convening of a UN Framework Convention on Sovereign Debt to free up fiscal space for developing nations.

4. Public Mobilisation: GCE members, with their broad constituencies, will mobilise diverse civil society organizations from education movements, grassroots organisations, academia, youth networks, and teacher unions to demand the right to education from governments, the international community, and other decision-makers.

GCE will launch GAWA 2026 on 20 April 2026 in a webinar “Hold the Flame High” for Education! at 14:00 – 15:00 (South African Standard Time).

Draft Programme

Moderators:

TIME ALLOCATION	TOPIC	SPEAKERS
5 min	Welcome and Opening remarks GAWA 2026 Theme objectives. Investing in Public Education is empowering youth and students.	Phumza Luthango
7 min	How GCE Youth members can support the GCE call to action: Hold the flame high for Education.	Grant Kasowanjete
7 min	Storytelling videos/ poems on Global Financial Pressures	1 visual art are presented.

	Contributions to the Right to Education Youth Network Special Rapporteur.	
7 min	Investing in Climate Justice: Why Education Must Be Funded Now” HOLD THE FLAME HIGH Invest in Education, Transform Lives	Israel Quirino CLADE youth group
7 min	When Budgets Shrink, Dreams Shrink: Youth Voices on Education Cuts and Debt Cuts on Education. ” HOLD THE FLAME HIGH Solve the Debt Crisis, Finance Education	Amarazya Tumorbaata Mongolian Youth council
7 min	Holding the Flame High: Financing Education for Gender Equality: The Role of Gender-Responsive Budgeting	Carrelle Kaze ANCEFA
7 min	Education in Times of War and Crisis: Youth Experiences Fund: Call to action fund education, not war.	Nawal AI Sayed ACES youth
5 min	Closing Remarks	Phumza Luthango