

MEDIA ALERT: Global Campaign for Education

What: Her Majesty Queen Rania of Jordan announces her role as Honorary Chair of Global Action Week on Education calls on millions to join the Big Read

Basetsane Kumalo, Gcina Mhlope and Simphiwe Dana and 40 children will join her in this 'Big Read' event that calls for 'Education for All'

When: Friday 27th March 10.30am – 11.30am

Where: Sandton Public Library, Nelson Mandela Square, Sandton, Johannesburg

Her Majesty Queen Rania Al Abdullah is announcing her role as 'Honorary Chair of Global Action Week' for the Global Campaign for Education on Her visit to South Africa. Renowned for Her philanthropic work on education and women's rights, Queen Rania will address the need for Education for All before reading her story alongside South Africa's popular women leaders to a group of children from Soweto and Thembisa.

South Africa's popular poet and storyteller Gcina Mhlope, world famous jazz artist Simphiwe Dana and business and fashion leader Basetsane Kumalo will sit with Her Majesty in telling their stories and asking that everyone be given the chance to learn from a good education. Amongst the children are dancers from the gumboots foundation who will be performing for Her Majesty as she arrives.

With 774 million illiterate adults and 75 million children out of school the Global Campaign for Education puts pressure on all governments to deliver 'Education for All'.

The Big Read is a compilation of many stories from global figures including **Nelson Mandela, Desmond Tutu, Alice Walker and Paulo Coelho**. The book will be read by **millions of people around the world**, who will then write their name at the back of the book – in demand of everyone being given the right to be able to learn. Big Read events are taking place during Action Week – 20th - 26th April.

In South Africa the Public Participation in Education Network are organising the Big Read campaign that will take place from the 20th April until the 16th June. The list of names added to the Big Read in South Africa will be delivered to the new President and Minister of Education on the 16th June with demands to provide everyone with a good quality education.

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Notes to Editors

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The **Global Campaign for Education**, founded in 1999, brings together major non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and teachers' unions in **more than 120 countries**. GCE promotes access to education as a basic human right and raises public awareness to create the political will for governments and other leaders in the international community to fulfill their promises to provide at least a free, public basic education for all children. Every April GCE organizes a week of campaigning on education called Global Action Week. This year's Action Week is called 'The Big Read' 20th – 26th April www.campaignforeducation.org/bigread

Public Participation in Education Network (PPEN) is a collection of individuals and organisations in South Africa who believe that South Africa needs to urgently redress the education situation in South Africa and provide everyone, no matter their income or background, with a good quality, corruption-free education. Anyone can add their name to PPEN's call to action on www.ppen.org.za