

Summary Report on The Expert Meeting
“Stopping violence in Schools. What works?”

UNESCO Headquarters, Paris, France
27-29 June 2007

Upon a special invitation from UNESCO’s Division for the Promotion of Basic Education to the Universal Education Foundation (UEF), two members participated at the Expert Meeting entitled “Stopping Violence in Schools. What Works?” which was held from 27-29 June 2007 in UNESCO Headquarters in Paris. This invitation came in view of the extensive experience and expertise of the UEF in the fields of the rights of the child and learning which constitutes a valuable contribution to the achievement of the meeting’s objectives, especially in identifying action points for future collaboration.

This meeting was organized within the framework of the UN-led global initiative, the World Program for Human Rights Education, whose objective is to promote the inclusion of human rights principles and values in the school curricula. This meeting was a follow-up activity to the UN Secretary-General’s Study on Violence against Children (2006) which highlighted, amongst others, the need to promote effective public policy to resolve the issue of school violence. Experts, policymakers and practitioners from the different regions as well as representatives from other UN agencies were invited to attend. The general objective of the meeting was to support the prevention of violence in schools both from a policy and practice perspective.

Among 50 expert participants from different parts of the world as well as UN agencies, Mr. Danial Kropf /Executive Vice-Chair and Ms. Amal Daoud /Projects Coordinator from UEF joined the intensive sessions throughout the three days. This was an excellent opportunity to share ideas and perspectives, and learn from examples around the world, to see what really works!



UEF has conducted a recent study on the well-being of children and young people where violence was a component on this study. The results were shared emphasizing that UEF vision of Education by All for the well-being of children, demands that society works towards promotion the optimal conditions for the holistic development to children and young people in their learning environment, and not only focus on violence (as a disease). It was a new concept for many of the attendants to hear about such a paradigm shift as they have always focused on solving problems. To include, it was emphasized that ICT and media should be more targeted as UEF has included them as major partners in working for the well being of children. By the end of the meetings, the concept

of well-being was integrated into many of the speeches and proposed plans by many of the participants.

This was a great opportunity for exposure and collaboration for UEF with the attendants and for future cooperation with UN agencies. The most important, is that the message of well-being will be circulating on the international level, which was one of our objectives in attending the meeting, in the hope of creating a global movement towards the well-being of children and youth as in all conferences and meetings UEF participates in.



Prepared by: Amal Daoud.
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