Privatisation and the Right to Education

Over the past months PERI has began to explore how to leverage international human rights mechanisms to address privatisation in education, catalysing a range of stakeholders and advancing the issue within UN human rights mechanisms.

PERI Newsletter Special Edition

Pursuing an international advocacy agenda on Privatisation in Education

In June 2014 the Privatisation in Education Research Initiative (PERI) and the Global Initiative for Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (GI-ESCR) held a series of events in Geneva focusing on privatisation and the human right to education. The following is a brief summary of events as well as links to reports, presentations and audio recordings available to view and download via the PERI website http://www.periglobal.org/.

Privatisation in Education and the Right to Education Human Rights Council Events-June 12thPalais des Nations, Geneva

The Human Rights Council Side Event and Expert Meeting fostered discussion and engagement and raised awareness about privatisation in education, which is having a profound impact on the realisation of the right to education globally. These events brought together the UN Special Rapporteur on the Right to Education Mr Kishore Singh, international education advocates, experts, academics and representatives from national and regional education coalitions to share some of the research and advocacy efforts conducted so far on privatisation in education, and to strengthen the analysis of the application of human rights standards to the
issue through the involvement of new and varied stakeholders.

Please click here to view the full event report; in addition several presenters from the events have made their presentations and audio recordings available via the links below:

*Privatisation of Education: Global Trends, Multiple Manifestations and Common Concerns, Mr. Antoni Verger, Professor, Centre for Globalisation, Education, Societies and Policy, Autonomous University of Barcelona*

*Impacts of Privatisation on the ground and recommendations to government- Brazil, Ms. Iracema Nascimento, Executive Coordinator, Brazilian Campaign for the Right to Education*

*Privatisation in Education and human rights in Morocco, Mr Sylvain Aubry, Independent Consultant*
Privatisation in Education Advocacy and Research Workshop June 13-14th, Geneva

Following the events at the Palais des Nations, the Open Society Foundations (OSF) and the Privatisation in Education Research Initiative (PERI) co-hosted an advocacy and research workshop with the Global Initiative for Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (GI-ESCR). The workshop explored how to leverage international human rights mechanisms to address privatisation in education, catalysing a range of stakeholders and advancing the issue within UN human rights mechanisms.

The two day workshop provided a space for representatives of national education coalitions, civil society organisations, strategic litigation specialists, human rights experts and academics to reflect on their work, identify areas of commonality and explore the possibility of developing a collective approach to research and advocacy on privatisation in and of education and its impact on the right to education. A report from the workshop is now available on the PERI website.

We are pleased that these events have sparked new interest and engagement with this issue and have fostered new collaborative efforts to refine the human rights analysis, advance national and international advocacy, and further the research agenda in this area.
Privatization and its Impact on the Right to Education of Women and Girls Report to the UN Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women

Following the events in Geneva, PERI collaborated with the thirteen civil society organisations who took part, to co-submit a written and oral submission to the UN Committee of the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) on Privatization and its Impact on the Right to Education of Women and Girls.

The report argues that privatization in many cases exacerbates gender discrimination in education, largely because when having to choose which of their children to send to private schools, parents in many parts of the world opt to send their sons rather than their daughters. The report argues that research has found that: “The proposition that ‘private schools provide real choice for parents including the disadvantaged’ … needs serious qualification. Choice may indeed exist for the relatively affluent and mobilised, but this is counterbalanced by the seeming structural exclusion by private schools of the very poor, girls and marginalised groups. In turn, private schools risk entrenching economic divisions, deepening gender discrimination and
institutionalising class inequalities”.
The report provides a number of recommendations to the Committee to inform the wording of a General Recommendation on girls’/women’s right to education, specifically that States must provide quality, accessible, free public schooling so parents are not forced to choose between their daughters and sons. Furthermore rather than attempting to transfer or deflect their responsibility to fulfil the right to education through privatization, States must take the opposite approach, meeting their obligation to fulfil and making a free quality education available and accessible to all.

Click [here](#) to view the Submission.

Latest Submissions
Developing news and trends are tracked on our [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#) accounts but below you will find some of the latest submissions to our website:
New DFID research on the role and impact of private schools in developing countries - *Can private schools improve education for children in developing countries?* Download the full paper and a shorter evidence brief.

- **How does demand for private schooling vary across locations with different private school supply?** Analysis of data from Rural India.
- **Institutional Framing of the Right to Education Act Contestation, Controversy and Concessions**
- **Going, going, gone? World Bank’s funding for public education**
- **The effects of privatization of education on teacher professionalism: evidence from the UK**
- **Widespread Culture of Private Tutoring in Hong Kong**
- **Private non-state sector engagement in the provision of educational services at the primary and secondary levels in South Asia: an analytical review of its role in school enrollment and student achievement, World Bank, Policy Research Working Paper; No. WPS 6899**
- **Emerging from the Shadow: A Comparative Qualitative Exploration of Private Tutoring in Eurasia**

We are very keen to receive more submissions so if you have something to share please do so through the website or email us. We would also encourage you to review the content that we
have received and leave comments on the website.

Warmest Wishes,

The PERI Team