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Rt Hon Penny Mordaunt MP
Secretary of State for International Development,
Department for International Development,
22 Whitehall,
London,
SW1A 2EG

18th December 2017

RE: Global Partnership for Education 2018 replenishment

Dear Secretary of State,

We are writing to you as parliamentarians supportive of the UK Government's commitment to Sustainable Development Goal 4: to ensure inclusive and quality education for all and promote lifelong learning.

Today, 264 million children and young people are not in school; and millions more are attending school but not learning. Lack of a high-quality education, especially for the poorest and most marginalised children is preventing millions of people around the world from learning the skills they need to seize opportunities and thrive in a changing world.

Education is fundamental to ending poverty and building safer, healthier and more prosperous communities, yet it remains woefully underfunded. Over the past decade, aid for education has declined and learning outcomes have stalled. In order to address the global learning crisis, international financing for education will need to increase from today's estimated \$16 billion per year to \$89 billion per year by 2030.

Now is the time for a step-change in education financing. Building on the work of the International Development Committee and the global focus on education at the UN General Assembly, we believe that the UK should be front and centre of creating the next learning generation.

Representing the wards of Croxteth, Knotty Ash, Norris Green,
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We are united in our support for the UK's continued commitment to the Global Partnership for Education (GPE). As the world's only funding platform dedicated solely to ensuring inclusive, quality education in developing countries, GPE drives national level reforms and progress in the education sector across 65 countries. Since 2002, GPE partners have achieved remarkable results, delivering education to 72 million primary school children and helping 38 million additional girls access school.

The International Commission on Financing Global Education recommends that GPE should be financed with US\$2 billion a year by 2020. In order to achieve this, the UK must continue its leadership role and increase its financial support for GPE to \$500 million (£376 million pounds at current exchange rate) for the 2018 replenishment. If the total replenishment target is achieved, GPE will support 89 developing countries to drive improved quality and access to education for 870 million children and youth. The UK's contribution will result in 1.6 million more children completing primary school and 550,000 additional children completing lower secondary school per year. It will provide 141,000 teachers with training, ensure that 2,000 classrooms are built and 17 million textbooks are distributed per year.

We believe that DFID's partnerships with multilaterals expand the reach of UK development and raise the standard of the largest organisations in the world. DFID's position on the GPE Board has ensured that the UK is a strong contributor and confident partner in delivering a quality education to millions of children. The UK Government has worked with GPE to improve its organisational performance and deliver effective reform, particularly around monitoring and evaluation strategies. DFID's continued engagement at the GPE Board has served to greater align GPE to UK development objectives and helped GPE to draw on DFID best practice where possible. By continuing its support to GPE, the UK can maintain its role in shaping the delivery of global education and creating hope and optimism for millions of children.

We are proud of GPE's focus on improving access, learning and equity outcomes for the world's most marginalised and vulnerable children, in line with the UK's commitment to leave no-one behind. With the UK's support, GPE's new 5-year strategic plan includes a

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comprehensive results framework with 37 indicators, disaggregated by gender and tracking factors associated with inclusion, such as data for children with disabilities.

The UK has put girls and women at the heart of its international development work and has helped millions of girls around the world to go to school. However, an estimated 131 million girls worldwide remain out of school and face multiple barriers to education, such as violence and child marriage. With the UK's support, the overall GPE replenishment target will result in an additional 9.4 million girls attending primary school and 3.9 million girls attending lower-secondary education.

However, gender is not the only barrier preventing children from learning. An estimated 65 million primary and lower-secondary school-aged children have disabilities - half of these children are out of school. We recognise that education is one of the most effective ways to break the cycle of discrimination and poverty that children with disabilities often face. But children with disabilities are still disproportionately excluded from education. GPE works with countries to develop inclusive education initiatives and ensures that disability inclusion is mainstreamed in all its policies and plans. Through GPE, the UK can maintain its commitment to pushing disability up the development agenda and ensuring that people with disabilities access a quality education.

We are proud of the UK's powerful commitment to spend 0.7% of GNI on helping the world's poorest. Given the UK's strong leadership within the global aid system, we encourage you to shine a spotlight on the learning crisis and galvanise the international community to close the funding gap. By maintaining the UK's role as a leading donor to GPE, you will ensure that UK aid continues to raise horizons, transform lives and secure a more prosperous future for the world's poorest and most vulnerable.

We look forward to your response.

Yours sincerely,

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