

# President's Message for International Day of Education 2024



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Video Message  
International Day of Education 2024

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Hello. I'm Professor Peter Scott, President and CEO of the Commonwealth of Learning. Today is the United Nations' sixth International Day of Education.

The Commonwealth of Learning, representing 56 countries and a third of the world's peoples, stands with the UN to ask you on this day, in particular, to note the "crucial role education and teachers play in countering hate speech" – a dangerous phenomenon given more power with the misuse of social media, which has had a profoundly damaging effect on societies around the globe. Increasingly, we have seen a normalisation of discrimination, violence and intolerance.

Since 1987, COL has been an enabler, capacity-builder and catalyst for collaboration within the Commonwealth and beyond and, as always, an advocate for learning for peace. We stand with UNESCO in its mission to "contribute to the building of a culture of peace, the eradication of poverty, sustainable development and intercultural dialogue through education, the sciences, culture, communication and information."

The Commonwealth of Learning remains committed to quality lifelong learning for all – believing, truly, that open access to learning opportunities is the single most powerful engine to combat inequity and to drive sustainable development of our world.

In a world of bad actors, it is important to know that we are actors for good. So today, ask yourself that question, pass that test. At COL, our agenda is to inform, educate, and up-skill while bringing learners everywhere, young and old, to care for evidence, to ask the difficult questions with respect, to embed science into their culture and sustain an active intercultural dialogue, and to always, always, speak truth to power.

On this day, the Commonwealth of Learning stands with our friends in UNESCO and ask you to reflect on the importance of education for the development of civil society and for peace.