GLOBAL PROTESTANT EDUCATION NETWORK – Advocacy for Protestant Education

In many countries across the globe, thousands of schools with a Protestant Christian ethos provide high-quality education that encourages future generations to take on personal responsibility to serve the common good with integrity. Protestant education is instrumental in fostering peace and justice, intercultural and interreligious understanding, and care for creation. GPEN aims at the flourishing of Protestant education and in particular of Protestant schools across the globe in their wide variety.

1. Giving voice and representing Protestant education

GPEN serves to give voice to the Protestant education sector. As we represent Protestant schools at continental and international levels, we defend the interests and highlight the challenges faced by these schools within their respective countries. Therefore, we are working closely together with system leaders and foster international exchanges among them on advocacy issues that are relevant for Protestant education.

2. Freedom of education and educational pluralism

Protestant education can only really flourish within national contexts in which the freedom of education is fully guaranteed, and educational pluralism is firmly established. Parents should be able to choose the education of their children that is in accordance with their religious beliefs or world views. These principles are in line with international and continental treaties on human rights, concerning the Right to Education.

Nation-states should allow for a flourishing independent school sector, including faith-based schools that are financed on an equal footing with state schools. Only in this way,

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free parental choice and the right to education as universal human rights can be safeguarded for all parents and children, regardless of their economic situation.

3. Strengthening national and regional advocacy

GPEN supports and assists national organizations, church-run educational institutions, church education departments and regional and continental Protestant education networks in order to promote and protect Protestant schools within their specific contexts. We aim at having strong national networks of Protestant schools in every country where they are present and offer support for their advocacy activities.

4. Cooperation

GPEN pursues advocacy through constructive dialogue, international cooperation, and mutual learning among educators, institutions, churches, and policymakers. At the international level, GPEN cooperates with like-minded partners, working closely together with OIDEL (an NGO with consultative status within UN-Organizations and the Council of Europe) and our Roman-Catholic sister-organization OIEC.

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