



OFFICE OF HER MAJESTY QUEEN RANIA AL ABDULLAH

**International Task Force on Teachers for Education for All
Amman, Jordan
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Dear delegates – welcome to Amman! Or as we say here, *ahlan w sahan!*

I want to start by telling you about two teachers: Nadya and Christopher.

Nadya is 25 and the only female teacher for hundreds of miles in the remote Paktika province of Afghanistan. Single-handedly, she teaches the women of the village how to read and write. But that is not all she does.

Her words, her actions, her very presence teaches locals the value of education – especially when it comes to girls. As a teacher, she is a role model and a symbol of what their country can achieve. She says, “They respect me like I am one of their community elders... and thank me for teaching their daughters.”

Christopher is 44 and has been a teacher for 20 years in Zimbabwe. At the beginning of last year, the headmaster of his school disappeared. The same day, only five teachers reported for duty. When they discovered they were the only ones present, they went back to their homes, leaving Christopher to run the school on his own.

Alone, he protected the school from thieves who stole books, stationery, and furniture. He travelled 200km to the capital to seek help from the Ministry of Education. With no luck, he stayed to teach his students as best he could. He said, “My heart bleeds for the hundreds of school children who cannot receive an education. Now they have no choices at all.”

We need more teachers like Nadya and Christopher in this world: dedicated, inspirational, leaders. We can learn from them, too; learn to face the daunting challenges of our jobs and remain steadfast in our objectives.

That is why I want to thank all of you, because Education for All is one of the most ambitious endeavours taken on by humanity. Your tireless commitment and leadership is an indispensable part of this task, keeping education – especially teachers – front and centre in global development.

With you, I promise to keep on doing my best to advocate for the voiceless and vulnerable, to secure for them their right to a quality education.



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But I also want to thank you for bringing this forum to Jordan. It draws attention to the state of education in our region. It helps galvanise support for reform. And it reaffirms our commitment to providing over 40 million Arab children of primary school age with the best education we can give them.

So, as you discuss strategies, case studies, and initiatives for how to hire and train millions of more quality teachers, I want you to remember Nadya and Christopher.

Because *they* are your ultimate objective.

Because *your* mission is not just to cultivate teachers who provide literacy and life skills; it is to find teachers who inspire our children and defend their right to an education.

Because, in the end, they are *not just teachers*: they are guides and guardians of our children's futures; they are repositories of values as well as wisdom; they nurture, challenge, and protect.

And that is the true mark of a quality teacher, the true path to quality education for all.

Thank you.

Rania Al Abdullah