



# Women's Education Partnership

NOVEMBER 2020

We hope that you are keeping safe and well as the COVID-19 pandemic continues to bring uncertainty to our daily lives. Whilst COVID has put a pause on many plans, those at WEP have continued to work hard under the challenging circumstances to provide its crucial work and make some exciting changes! Read on to find out what we have been up to.

## New Website

WEP has a new look! Check out our [new and improved website](#) to:

- Learn about [what we do](#);
- [Hear from our students](#);
- [Fundraise for us](#);
- Read our [latest blog posts](#); and
- [Keep up to date with all our news!](#)

Please feel free to follow [this link](#) to take a look around. Many thanks to Kate, our dedicated volunteer, for all her hard-work and commitment in getting this set up!

## Teacher training project for teachers in elementary schools

WEP is very excited to announce a new 3-year project starting in 2021 – training teachers in elementary girls' schools in settlements around Khartoum. We are very fortunate to be supported in this by a very generous grant from the British and Foreign School Society (BFSS).

WEP already supports the education of disadvantaged pupils in these elementary schools to ensure that they can complete their basic education. Now BFSS is enabling us to take the crucial next step in improving the quality of teaching in 30 of these deprived schools. This will have beneficial results for the teachers who receive the training, for their pupils and for the capability and standing of the schools and the communities they serve. We are very grateful to BFSS for this support.



## Welcome to new Trustees

We are delighted to welcome two new trustees onto our board: Sue Claydon and Abdul Aziz Suliman.

Sue has worked in adult education for most of her professional life and spent two years volunteering in South Sudan working on peace education in schools. She is involved in supporting women's community peace training delivered by the South Sudan Community Change Agency.

Abdul has held positions in numerous universities including Leicester, Khartoum, Gazera, and Medani. After completing a PGCE teaching course, he worked in Kent before moving to Southbank International School in Regent's Park, where he is head of Science. His family still live in Khartoum and he makes regular visits to the capital to visit them.

We are thrilled to have Sue and Abdul on board and are excited for them to bring their knowledge and experience to WEP to help it continue flourishing.

To donate to our work, please visit our website <http://www.womenseducationpartnership.org/> and select the [Donate Now](#).

## Term Dates Postponed

Whilst COVID-19 cases in the country continue to fall, the pandemic is still very much present. As such, the Ministry of Education made the decision to postpone the start of this academic year until 22 November 2020. Whilst we are sure many new and returning students would be disappointed at the postponement of their studies, these are necessary measures to ensure the safety of everyone.

We are planning that our Women's Literacy Circles will resume this month, providing that they are safe to do so.

## Kimu Literacy Circles

We are pleased to have recently funded further building work at the Kimu Health Clinic near Juba, which hosts adult literacy circles and provide vital health care to surrounding communities.

## Flood Damage: APPEAL!

The risk of floods is not an unfamiliar threat in Sudan but, this year, they have been unprecedentedly catastrophic. After several months of torrential rain and flash floods, over 100 people have lost their lives and thousands are displaced. Even as the floods recede, water-borne diseases now threaten the population and add pressure to the health services already struggling to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Education has not escaped the devastation of the floods, with many schools and educational facilities suffering crucial damage. Not only the buildings, but equipment – such as schoolbooks, desks and other supplies – have been destroyed. You can read more about the [impact that flooding has had on education](#) in the country, and on the [orphans' elementary schools we support](#), on our [website](#).

*Funds are in desperate need to help rebuild schools, for new supplies, and ensure the quick and safe return of the school children to all-important education. Please consider [making a donation](#), so that we can carry out these vital repairs.*

## WEP's New Patron, Leila Aboulela

**[We are proud and honoured to announce that Leila Aboulela has agreed to become our newest patron.](#)** As many will know, Leila is a Sudanese writer living in Scotland. She was the first winner of the Caine Prize for African Writing and her work has been recognized for its distinctive exploration of migration and Islamic spirituality. She has published five novels, an award-winning collection of short stories, and several of her plays have been broadcast on the BBC. She is Honorary President of the Society for the Study of the Sudans and is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts.

Leila Aboulela said, "It's an honour to be named as WEP's newest patron. The work they do not only empowers women but also benefits their children, extended families, and communities. Illiteracy is a disability and a prison; education is life enhancing and nurturing. I am excited to join this amazing charity and grateful for the opportunity to help women in Sudan."

We are excited to work with Leila going forward, and are grateful for her support!

For more information about Leila and her work, please visit [www.leila-aboulela.com](http://www.leila-aboulela.com)



## Support WEP

Now more than ever, WEP needs help to continue supporting its essential and important work in Sudan. As COVID-19 causes further economic instability, it also exacerbates inequalities across the world in education, access to health, and gender equality. **Any donation, large or small, will help to contribute** towards providing education to WEP sponsored orphans; reopening and operating our literacy circles for women in deprived areas; delivering eye care to those living in the poorest communities; and offering young women the chance of a university education.

£12 could pay for 2 women to attend an eye care programme

£30 can support a woman through a year of learning reading and writing

£60 could give an orphan child the chance of a year's education at elementary school

£500 is enough to put a woman through a year of university

We know times are hard for all at the moment, but every donation helps, and we are grateful for each one! Please consider [making a donation](#).

If you do not feel you can donate at the moment, please consider [selecting us as your chosen charity on Amazon Smile!](#) In doing this, whenever you purchase from Amazon, WEP will receive 0.5% of the cashback. Please click [here](#) to donate to WEP whenever you shop!

Alternatively, head to our [Fundraising Page](#) to learn about ways you can have fun at the same time as raising money for us!



Thank you for your support over the years and we hope you will continue to be part of the WEP community. As always, we would love to hear from you so do feel free to [get in touch](#) at [enquiries@womeneducationpartnership.org](mailto:enquiries@womeneducationpartnership.org).

And don't forget to follow us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#) for updates!