



Global Response to Commercialisation of Education

STATEMENT

February 8th, 2018

Education International stands behind the teachers in Uganda to put students before profit

According to Article XVIII of the Constitution of Uganda, the State “shall promote free and compulsory basic education.” It also requires all non-state actors wishing to operate educational institutions to comply with “the general education policy of the country and maintain general standards.”

The Education Act of 2008 emphasizes that “No person shall teach in any public or private school unless he or she is registered as a teacher or licensed to teach.”

Sadly, these principles, which form the foundation of quality education, have been disregarded by Bridge International Academies (BIA), a multinational chain of for profit, private schools targeting poor families in an increasing number of African countries.

BIA systematically fails to safeguard students’ rights and ensure minimum standards in its schools. Instead of employing qualified teachers who deliver the national curriculum in safe facilities, BIA does the opposite - to the detriment of Ugandan students and society.

Despite having been declared to be operating illegally and without authorization by the Ugandan government, the multinational chain has re-opened schools again this week for the new school year. This represents a clear act of defiance that disregards the laws of a sovereign nation.



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Education International welcomes the Ugandan Government's decision to close Bridge International Academies schools and stands in solidarity with Uganda National Teachers' Union (UNATU) in calling the authorities to

- Fulfil their primary obligation to properly and adequately fund free, quality education for all children regardless of the background since this is crucial to Uganda's future prosperity.
- Remain steadfast in ensuring compliance in relation to national education standards. The registration of schools should only occur once full compliance with minimum standards have been met.