

# GCE BUZZ

*October-November 2025*

## CLADE Brings Voices For Peace at Regional High-level Meeting in Latin America and the Caribbean

From 12 to 14 November 2025, the Latin American Campaign for the Right to Education (CLADE) took part in the High-Level Regional Meeting 'Latin America and the Caribbean as a Territory of Peace', convened by UNESCO and the Ministry of Education of the Dominican Republic in Santo Domingo. The event gathered representatives of ministries of education, teachers' organisations, youth and civil society to explore how education can become a powerful tool for building more just, peaceful and sustainable societies in the region.



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The meeting aimed to contribute to a common framework of action to integrate the 2023 Recommendation on Education for Peace, Human Rights and Sustainable Development into education systems, strengthening national capacities and promoting South-South cooperation. Participants also worked on a roadmap for implementing the Recommendation, advancing transformative education policies, promoting exchange among diverse actors and presenting key tools for its application in schools and communities.

CLADE participated with its strong regional perspective as a plural network of civil society organisations committed to the right to education, advocating for transformative, public, secular and free education throughout life as a responsibility of the State. This vision aligns with the 2023 Recommendation, developed with the input of over 3,000 specialists from 130 countries, which positions education as a driver of change in the face of contemporary global challenges. CLADE stressed that education for peace must span the entire learning pathway, from early childhood to youth and adult education, transforming hierarchical and discriminatory cultural patterns towards a shared horizon of human rights for all.

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During the meeting, María Elena Urbano, coordinator of the Colombian Coalition for the Right to Education and member of CLADE's steering committee, presented three concrete initiatives that show how peace can be built from local territories.

- **Early childhood:** A project in partnership with OMEP in Honduras and Guatemala promotes Gender Transformative Education (GTE) in early childhood, with inclusive, community-based experiences that place girls and boys as protagonists of learning through play, dialogic learning and community educational management.
- **Rural settings:** An initiative in Haiti, Nicaragua and Honduras seeks to prevent sexual and gender-based violence and promote equity in rural schools through participatory action research, enabling students to identify and design their own prevention strategies and to break the silence around violence.
- **Youth and adult education (EPJA):** Processes in Brazil, Paraguay, Colombia and Guatemala focus on strengthening youth and adult education systems and advancing GTE through technical working groups and dialogue with education authorities, securing recognition of civil society as a key actor and generating evidence for advocacy.

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These experiences show how peace is built throughout life within educational spaces, encouraging people to recognise themselves as subjects with voice, knowledge and dreams, and moving away from patriarchal and adult-centric paradigms towards cultures of care and respect. Gender Transformative Education is understood here as a comprehensive educational approach that seeks to reconfigure power relations and challenge systems that perpetuate inequality and oppression, including patriarchy, racism and colonialism.

## **The 2023 Recommendation: A Global Normative Landmark**

The 2023 UNESCO Recommendation on Education for Peace, Human Rights, International Understanding, Cooperation, Fundamental Freedoms, Global Citizenship and Sustainable Development updates the historic 1974 Recommendation, which first brought countries together to make education a key factor for peace and international understanding. It remains the only global normative instrument that defines how education can and should be used to achieve lasting peace and sustainable development. Drawing on the 2021 Futures of Education report and the 2022 Transforming Education Summit, the Recommendation connects issues such as human rights, digital technologies, climate change, gender equality, health, well-being and cultural diversity, and underscores that building and sustaining peace is an ongoing process that depends on the daily actions of every person.