

# Ready, Set, READ!

A Breakfast Reception



*Please join leading education and international organizations for:*

## **Ready, Set, READ!** *a breakfast reception*

*In celebration of International Literacy Day and  
promoting U.S. support for global education*

Wednesday, September 13, 2023, 8:30–10:00 am  
Russell Senate Office Building, Room 385

#READActReauthorization #USAIDLiteracy

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# Introductory Video



- In Rwanda, generational illiteracy is robbing children of their futures.
- Here's a story of two mothers—Pertonile and Cecile. Pertonile is literate and Cecile is not. For a while it looked as if Cecile's daughter, Dorcas, might follow the same path as she struggled in school and Cecile couldn't help. But now World Vision's Unlock Literacy program helps Dorcas to thrive in her education.
- This story illustrates the cycle of generational illiteracy – and importantly shows how literacy and inclusive education programs like this World Vision Unlock Literacy program are helping to bridge that gap.

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# Dr. Joanne Carter



- **Executive Director, RESULTS and RESULTS Educational Fund**, supporting a movement of passionate everyday people who are using their voices to influence political decisions that will bring an end to poverty
- Under her leadership, RESULTS has grown to include chapters and grassroots volunteers in every state in the U.S., with advocacy partnerships around the world.
- Joanne has served in a range of board and advisory roles with the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, the Micronutrient Initiative, Stop TB Partnership, Global Campaign for Education-US, and the Global Financing Facility for Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn, Child and Adolescent Health.
- Joanne served as a VISTA volunteer and recruiter for the Peace Corps. Prior to joining RESULTS staff, Joanne served as a RESULTS volunteer Group Leader and then Regional Coordinator for 4 years in the New York City area.

# Thank you to today's event sponsors, including:



World Learning

World Vision



NABU



GLOBAL CAMPAIGN FOR  
**EDUCATION**  
UNITED STATES



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# Chairman Ed Royce



- Former U.S. House Rep. from California's 39th District
- Former Chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Committee
- National Advisory Committee, U.S. Global Leadership Committee (USGLC) and serves as a Senior Advisor for the Kyle House Group
- Champion for the READ Act and READ Act Reauthorization

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# READ Act Reauthorization (S.41; HR.681)

- Ensures US Government continues basic education strategy
  - Foundational literacy, numeracy
  - Accountability, transparency, evaluation
  - Annual report to Congress
- “Clean” reauthorization of READ Act of 2017
- Bipartisan, bicameral



The READ Act of 2017 sunsets September 30



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# What can I do to support global education?

- **Cosponsor READ Act Reauthorization**
  - Lead Offices:
    - Senators Durbin and Rubio
    - Reps. Chris Smith and Grace Meng
- Encourage leadership to **pass READ Reauthorization ASAP**





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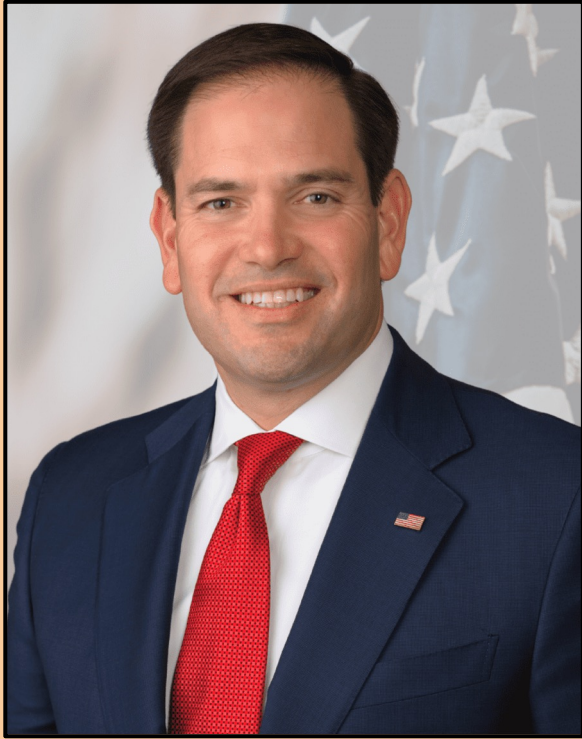
# Chairwoman Nita Lowey



- Former U.S. House Rep. from New York's 20th District
- Former Chairwoman of the House Appropriations Committee and Chairwoman of the Subcommittee on State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs
- Former Co-Chair of the Bipartisan Congressional Caucus for Women's Issues
- Original lead sponsor of READ Act 2017 and global education champion

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# U.S. Senator Marco Rubio (R, FL)



- Vice Chairman of the Select Committee on Intelligence
- Senior Member of the Committee on Foreign Relations
- Former Chairman of the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship
- Member of the Committee on Appropriations and Subcommittee on State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs
- Lead sponsor READ Act Reauthorization Act, sponsor of READ Act of 2017

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# U.S. Senator Dick Durbin (D, IL)



- 47th U.S. Senator from the State of Illinois, the state's senior senator, and the convener of Illinois' bipartisan congressional delegation
- Senate Majority Whip
- Chair of the Senate Judiciary Committee and sits on the Appropriations and Agriculture Committees
- Lead sponsor READ Act Reauthorization Act, sponsor of READ Act of 2017

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# U.S. House Rep. Grace Meng



- First Vice-Chair of the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus, a co-Chair of the House Bipartisan Taskforce for Combating Antisemitism, and as a Vice-Chair of the LGBTQ+ Equality Caucus.
- Senior Member and Vice Ranking Member of the House Appropriations Committee,
- Serves on both the State and Foreign Operations subcommittee and the Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies subcommittee

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# Keynote Address - LeAnna Marr



- USAID Deputy Assistant Administrator & Acting Senior Coordinator of U.S. International Basic Education Assistance
- A USAID Foreign Service Officer since 2004, she has served in Guinea, South Sudan, Sudan (Khartoum), North Macedonia, and Morocco
- Prior to USAID, she worked as Associate Peace Corps Director in Guinea, an international basic education consultant, and as executive director of a non-profit education program in Washington, DC

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# Carol Jenkins



- President and CEO of World Learning, which encompasses three distinct branches:
  - The Experiment in International Living;
  - School for International Training, which includes SIT Study Abroad and SIT Graduate Institute; and
  - The nonprofit global development and exchange unit World Learning



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## Ngozi Lawal, Panel Moderator



- Principal of Early Actions, working to ensure every child reaches their full potential in school and life
- Previously worked with the Center for the Study of Social Policy's (CSSP) Prenatal to Three Initiative
- Formerly supported Deputy Assistant Secretary for Early Childhood Education at the Administration for Children and Families, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
- Board Officer, Global Campaign for Education-US and appointed as an inaugural National Black Child Development Institute Policy Fellow



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# Dr. Alison Bryant



- Chief Research, Data, and Impact Officer at Sesame Workshop
- Dr. Bryant and her team ensure that research and data insights fuel strategic priorities, promote continued innovation, and further the Workshop's global thought leadership on the power of media and outreach to educate and support kids and families

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# Laura Denham



- Human rights and education advocate who joined Malala Fund in early 2018.
- In her current role as Government Relations Adviser, Laura works with governments and civil society to advance policies, initiatives and financing frameworks that allow every girl to claim her right to education.
- Malala Fund advocates — at local, national and international levels — for resources and policy changes needed so all girls can access 12 years of free, safe, quality education.
- Malala Fund also invests in education advocates and activists who are challenging the policies and practices that prevent girls from going to school in their communities.

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# Maha Shoaib



- Graduate Fellow, Global Campaign for Education- United States
- Fulbright Scholar from Pakistan
- Master's Student, International Education Policy, University of Maryland
- Former teacher who was recognized by the Teacher Task Force at the UN Transforming Education Summit

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# Ahlan Simsim Partnership Highlight



- Sesame Workshop collaboration with International Rescue Committee and NYU Global Ties for Children.
- Ahlan Simsim – which means “Welcome Sesame” in Arabic – offers a warm and joyful welcome to early learning to young children across the Middle East, especially those affected by displacement.



**NYU**

Global TIES  
for Children

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# Panel and Discussion



Dr. Alison Bryant,  
Sesame  
Workshop



Ngozi Lawal,  
Early Actions



Laura Denham,  
Malala Fund



Maha Shoaib,  
UMD and GCE-US

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# U.S. House Rep. Lois Frankel (FL-22)



- Serving her 6th term
- Member of the House Appropriations Committee, Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies and State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs Subcommittees
- Chair of the Democratic Women's Caucus
- Co-Chair of the Women, Peace, and Security Caucus
- First woman Democratic minority leader in the Florida State Legislature
- Former Mayor of West Palm Beach
- Supporter and cosponsor of READ Act Reauthorization



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# Francine Niyomuhoza



- Francine is a 21-year-old Global Partnership for Education Youth Leader originally from Rwanda.
- She arrived in the Dzaleka refugee camp of Malawi in 2002 with her parents when she was 1.
- Recently, she worked as a community social worker for Jesuit Refugee Service on the Naweza Project.
- Today she attends Catholic University of Malawi where she studies Business Administration.



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