



EDUCATION MONITOR AROUND THE GLOBE



Our Vision

We envision a world where every person, regardless of background or location, has safe access to quality education.

Our Mission

We aim to remove barriers to education through research, advocacy and community-based solutions.

Through research we aim to identify barriers to education and offer possible solutions. Our advocacy gives a voice to those who cannot speak out and aims to hold those responsible to account. With community-based solutions we promote change in a sustainable and proactive manner.

Our Values

Inclusivity

We embrace diversity and strive to create an environment where everyone's unique differences are accepted and welcomed.

Empowerment

We empower individuals through education and career opportunities to achieve their potential.

Advocacy

We bring attention to violations related to education, advocating for those in need, to support the fight for change.

Collaboration

We believe in the power of partnerships and work collaboratively with individuals, communities, organizations, and governments to drive change.

Integrity

We aim to uphold the highest standards of honesty, transparency, and ethical behaviour in all our actions.

Impact

We believe that our work should be creating a direct impact in improving peoples' access to education and in prompting action against human rights violations.

Contact Us





EDUCATION MONITOR AROUND THE GLOBE CONTRIBUTORS

Who are we?

Writers/Contributors

1. Panashe Marie Louise Mlambo
2. Iroda Numonjonova
3. Mené van Heerden
4. Tseke Dooyum Stephanie
5. Viona Sugianto



Panashe Marie Louise Mlambo



Iroda Numonjonova



Tseke Dooyum Stephanie



Viona Sugianto

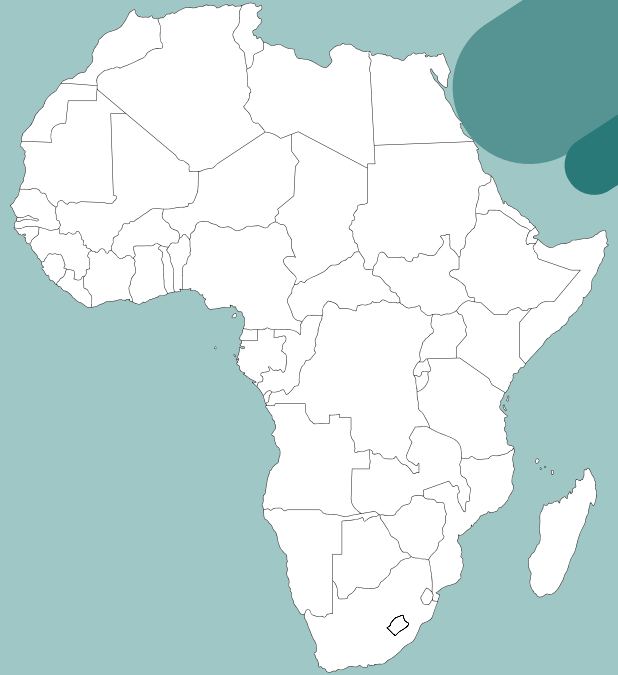


AFRICA

Democratic Republic of Congo

Conflict in North Kivu, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) has continued, and it has forced the closure of 17% of schools, leaving 375,000 children out of education and at risk of violence and recruitment by armed groups. The escalating violence since January has displaced millions, with 775 schools repurposed as shelters for displaced families. Children continue to face extreme dangers, including sexual violence over 895 cases of rape were reported in just two weeks and threats from explosive remnants of war. The loss of education jeopardizes children's futures, as many have been forced to abandon their studies with little hope of returning.

Source: <https://www.savethechildren.net/news/drc-more-375000-children-out-school-north-kivu-risk-violence-and-recruitment>



Kenya

In Kilgoris, Kenya, Maasai girls at the Enkakenya Centre for Excellence are learning self-defense to protect themselves from sexual abuse and early marriage. The center, founded by Kakenya Ntaiya, who experienced genital mutilation herself, provides a safe and free high school education for girls at risk. Kenyan law prohibits genital mutilation and child marriage, yet both practices remain prevalent in rural areas. The center partners with "I'm Worth Defending" to teach assertiveness and boundary-setting skills. These skills empower girls like Grace Musheni and Rahab Lepishoi to speak out against and prevent gender-based violence. The education and self-defense training aim to break the cycle of poverty and cultural norms that pressure girls into early marriage. The girls aspire to pursue careers in law, technology, and other fields to uplift their communities and inspire others to follow their dreams.

Source: <https://apnews.com/article/kenya-maasai-girls-genital-mutilation-self-defense-school-70e41a690e5964484247d51aff65a2f5>





South Africa

South Africa's Deputy Minister of Higher Education, Science, and Technology, Buti Manamela revealed that his department is working with the National Student Financial Aid Scheme (NSFAS) to settle outstanding debt to private accommodation providers. Last month (February), the Private Student Housing Association raised concerns that students may be left without accommodation due to NSFAS's outstanding debt of ZAR44 million (US\$2.4 million) for student accommodation from the previous year. South Africa is currently grappling with a severe student accommodation crisis with a shortage of over 500,000 beds. The crisis was highlighted as universities opened across the country two weeks ago, with students taking to the streets to protest the accommodation shortages. Some students were forced to sleep in libraries and outside university premises, exacerbating concerns about student welfare and access to education. President Cyril Ramaphosa, during his State of the Nation Address announced that there's an approval of 12 blended finance projects worth with nearly ZAR38 billion which includes funding for student accommodation. Along with this plan, the minister also urged private accommodation providers not to prejudice NSFAS-funded students.

Source: <https://www.iol.co.za/news/education/nsfas-to-settle-r44-million-private-student-housing-debt-says-deputy-minister-of-higher-education-buti-manamela-e265695c-5c75-401a-9eaf-99410872956d>

Sudan

The war in Sudan has led to the destruction and abandonment of schools, leaving millions of children without access to education. Many children are forced out of classrooms due to displacement, hunger, and insecurity. Armed groups have recruited children, exposing them to violence instead of learning. The lack of safe learning spaces and essential resources has deepened the crisis, especially for the most vulnerable. As a result, an entire generation is at risk of losing their education, threatening their future opportunities.

Source: <https://news.un.org/en/story/2025/03/1161091>

Zambia

Zambia's Vice-President, Mutale Nalumango has called on the University of Zambia (UNZA) management to foster continuous engagement with student leaders to prevent unrest and maintain a peaceful academic environment. Mutale emphasized the government's commitment to engaging with students across the country. She reaffirmed that leadership should be rooted in listening, engaging and collaborating, encouraging students to adopt the same approach. Meanwhile, Minister of Education, Douglas Syakalima noted that the training program equips students with essential skills in dialogue, consensus-building, and strategic negotiation. He underscored the importance of resolving conflicts through non-violent means and protective engagement. The training marks a significant step towards nurturing responsible and solution-driven leadership among students, reinforcing the government's commitment to fostering a conducive learning environment in Zambia's higher education institutions.

Source: <https://www.lusakatimes.com/2025/03/07/vice-president-mutale-nalumango-urges-student-leaders-to-prioritize-dialogue-over-protests/>



ASIA



India

The Assam state cabinet in India decided on Tuesday, 4 March that any new private university being set up in the state will first have to get security clearances from the home and political departments in view of national security and remain secular with not indulging any religious conversion directly or indirectly while carrying out operations. Any complaints of violations of these conditions are witnessed, then the licenses of those universities will be canceled. The cabinet approved these new rules to give more teeth to the Assam Private Universities Act, 2007 to avoid any security threats and to ensure credibility of these private universities.

Source:

<https://www.hindustantimes.com/education/news/private-universities-in-assam-will-need-security-clearance-must-be-secular-cm-himanta-biswa-sarma-101741094658262.html>

Iran

The Iranian government continues to suppress women's rights and restrict access to education, particularly for girls, through intensified surveillance and harsh enforcement of mandatory hijab laws. Despite promises to ease restrictions, new policies like the "Noor plan" have increased policing and legal actions against women defying dress codes, including heavy fines and prison sentences. Many female human rights activists and students face persecution, with some forced to flee the country, further limiting access to education and freedom of expression. Children, including student protesters, have been subjected to violence, torture, and unfair trials, highlighting systemic repression within the education system.

Source: <https://www.ohchr.org/en/press-releases/2025/03/iran-government-continues-systematic-repression-and-escalates-surveillance>

Myanmar

According to the March 2025 Asia Times news report, Myanmar's youth are facing severe hardships under the military regime following the 2021 coup, which dismantled democratic progress. Thousands have fled to join armed resistance groups, while others engage in civil disobedience, abandoning studies and careers. Armed opposition forces have gained territory, but the junta still controls major cities. In February 2024, the regime introduced mandatory military service, with reports of forced conscription and abductions. Many young people seek overseas education to avoid enlistment, but economic decline and currency devaluation make it unaffordable. The junta's actions risk long-term harm to Myanmar's future, as forced conscription and battlefield deaths deplete the younger generation. International aid restrictions have worsened conditions, leading to the closure of refugee medical centers, schools, and safe houses for activists. A crackdown on cyber scam operations recently freed 7,000 people, though many remain trapped in similar schemes. The crisis has left Myanmar's youth desperate, with uncertain prospects under military rule.

Source: <https://asiatimes.com/2025/03/myanmar-youth-angry-desperate-and-on-the-run-from-junta-rule/>



Pakistan

Three federally chartered universities in Pakistan are grappling with a severe financial crisis, struggling even to pay salaries and pensions. The affected institutions – Quaid-i Azam University, International Islamic University Islamabad, and the Federal Urdu University of Arts, Science, and Technology are facing difficulties due to insufficient funding from the Higher Education Commission. According to sources, both the Higher Education Commission and the Ministry of Federal Education and Professional Training have requested the government to approve a supplementary grant of PKR2.5 billion (US\$9.8 million) to address the crisis. Funding per student also had declined from PKR67,528 in 2018-19 to PKR50,956 in 2023-24, making it even harder for universities to manage operational costs. The National Assembly Committee has emphasized the need to raise the education budget by at least 4% of the GDP in the upcoming 2025-26 fiscal budget.

Source: <https://propakistani.pk/2025/03/05/3-islamabad-universities-face-financial-crisis/>

Singapore

AI Singapore (AISG) is nurturing the next generation of AI talent through initiatives like the AI Apprenticeship Programme (AIAP), providing hands-on experience and mentorship. To expand expertise, Singapore launched a S\$7 million AI Accelerated Master's Programme for citizens. The AI Talent Bridge Programme, in collaboration with the U.S., promotes tech opportunities for women. Since adopting a national AI strategy in 2019, updated in 2023, Singapore aims to triple its AI talent pool and establish an 'iconic' AI site. OpenAI's decision to set up an Asia-Pacific hub in Singapore further solidifies its position as a global AI leader, creating jobs and fostering innovation.

Source: <https://www.channelnewsasia.com/advertorial/empowering-future-how-ai-singapore-shaping-next-generation-ai-talent-4961091>

Philippines

Philippines President Ferdinand R Marcos Jr has signed into law a measure seeking to create pathways for working professionals to earn degrees through non-traditional means. The signed Republic Act (RA) or the Tertiary Education Equivalency and Accreditation Program (ETEEAP) Act will allow working professionals to earn college degrees without going through the traditional schooling methods. The ETEEAP will identify, assess, validate, and assign equivalent undergraduate-level and special graduate programs of prior learning from formal, non-formal and informal learning systems and relevant work experiences to qualified individuals for the grant of appropriate academic degrees. The Commission on Higher Education (CHED) will serve as the lead implementing agency of the new law. To avail the program, applicants must be at least 23 years old at the time of application, have completed a secondary school program and must have at least 5 years of aggregate work experience in the industry related to the academic degree program/discipline. The law is applauded by many as a crucial step toward helping Filipino workers advance their career.

Source: <https://www.pna.gov.ph/articles/1245389>





South Korea

Choi Sang-Mok, South Korea's acting president and minister of strategy and finance, on 7 March, planned to designate two additional 'universities focused on youth entrepreneurship' centered outside the capital region. He also highlighted that the current situation is harder than ever for employment or entrepreneurship due to recent domestic economic stagnation and increasing uncertainties. The recent increase in young people taking a break from work is a very significant loss to the nation and the government is supporting a smooth entry into the labor market for young people so that they don't stop and can move forward as well as strengthening the entrepreneurship ecosystem. The government is providing tailored 1-on-1 employment services to young people through the 'Youth Employment All-Care Platform' which more than 1.3 million university students have agreed to provide information. In addition to that, the government will also expand the job-related experience in high-demand fields such as AI and ICT as well as increasing the establishment of youth startup funds.

Source: <https://biz.chosun.com/en/en-policy/2025/03/07/463AKQN6TJEZFD4LWDXZHHSQHA/>



Vietnam

In Thanh Hoa Province, Vietnam, a 7th-grade male student had his bangs cut in front of his class by a female Civics teacher for forgetting his notebook. The incident occurred last month at Quang Chieu Secondary School. The school's principal, Doan Van Son, stated that representatives from the school, along with the teacher and local authorities, visited the student's home to apologize. The teacher, who was on a fixed-term contract, has been suspended from teaching for a week and is required to submit a written report.

Source: <https://e.vnexpress.net/news/news/education/teacher-cuts-student-s-hair-in-class-for-forgetting-notebook-4860170.html>

Syria

Syrian students returning from Turkey face significant educational challenges, primarily due to their limited Arabic proficiency, which often leads to academic regression. The lack of sufficient support programs makes it difficult for them to adapt to Syria's educational system, forcing many to repeat grades. Psychological and social struggles further hinder their integration, as students experience cultural shock and a loss of motivation to learn. Schools attempt to address these issues with extra lessons and placement tests, but these efforts remain inadequate.

Source:

<https://english.enabbaladi.net/archives/2025/03/challenges-hinder-integration-of-syrian-students-returning-from-turkey/>

Uzbekistan

In Uzbekistan, domestic violence remains a critical issue, with at least 12 women taking their own lives in 2024 due to abuse, either during the mandatory six-month divorce reconciliation period or because they were unable to file for divorce. Cases across different districts reveal extreme psychological, physical, and economic abuse by husbands and in-laws, often leaving women without support. In Dangara, a woman and her three children were forced into homelessness, and after being pressured to return to her abusive husband, she died by suicide; the husband received a seven-year prison sentence. In Kushrabot, a woman denied medical care after severe beatings consumed vinegar to end her suffering, leading to her husband's imprisonment for seven years. In Koson and Karshi, women subjected to continuous humiliation and financial control by in-laws also took their own lives, resulting in prison sentences for the perpetrators. Courts have handed down sentences ranging from seven years for abusive husbands to probation for in-laws, but experts argue that legal consequences alone are insufficient. Activists stress the need for early intervention, improved legal protections, and accessible support services to prevent further tragedies and break the cycle of domestic violence in Uzbekistan.

Source: <https://kun.uz/en/news/2025/03/04/breaking-the-cycle-of-domestic-violence-the-need-for-early-intervention>



EUROPE

Albania

Albania has enacted a one-year ban on the social media platform TikTok, aiming to protect children from potential harm associated with its use. Education Minister Ogerta Manastirliu confirmed that the ban, initially proposed by Prime Minister Edi Rama. The government consulted approximately 65,000 parents before implementing the ban, with 90% supporting the measure. Authorities have also engaged in discussions with TikTok to explore safety features such as parental controls, age verification, and the inclusion of the Albanian language. Critics argue that the ban may infringe upon freedom of expression and access to information. Civil society groups have questioned the rationale behind the ban, suggesting it may be politically motivated rather than solely focused on child safety. The ban's enforcement will involve collaboration between the National Cyber Security Agency and relevant entities to ensure compliance. The government intends to use the 12-month suspension to implement measures enhancing digital safety for children and young people.

Source:

<https://balkaninsight.com/2025/03/06/albanian-ministry-confirms-one-year-ban-on-tiktok-to-protect-children/>



Belgium

The Belgian defense and public health ministries are asking Belgian universities to pay more attention to ensuring that healthcare students are better prepared for potential conflict situations. A group of experts is looking at how military aspects can be integrated into medicine training. This may range from an optional subject to an extra master's program. Resilience can also be addressed in other courses, for example those for physiotherapists and nurses. The changes to training will start next year. As the 21st century brings new ways of waging war such as new technologies or biological weapons, doctors must also be prepared for these possibilities and consider the appropriate solution and healthcare.

Source: <https://www.vrt.be/vrtnws/en/2025/03/05/flemish-universities-to-prepare-medical-students-for-wars/>





Hungary

Hungary faces challenges in ensuring equal access to quality public education, particularly for marginalized groups. Concerns over academic freedom in schools and universities raise questions about restrictions on teachers, researchers, and students. School safety remains a pressing issue, affecting both students and educators. Gaps in government policies and their implementation may hinder the fulfillment of education rights. Additionally, the limited involvement of teachers' unions, student associations, and civil society groups suggests a lack of inclusive dialogue in education reforms.

Source: <https://www.ohchr.org/en/media-advisories/2025/03/un-expert-visit-assess-strengths-and-challenges-right-education-hungary>.

Netherlands

On March 10, 2025, students and staff at Leiden University, including its The Hague campus, initiated a series of nationwide strikes protesting proposed government budget cuts to higher education. The government plans to reduce higher education funding by €1 billion, potentially affecting grants for young researchers. Demonstrators, adorned with red cards symbolizing their dissent, gathered at Garenmarktplein near the law school for speeches. Concerns were raised about the lack of clarity regarding which programs would face cuts, with fears that smaller departments, such as language studies, might be targeted. The uncertainty surrounding the budget cuts has also led to operational challenges, including significant declines in pre-enrollments among international students, with projections indicating a potential drop of 10% to 20% for the 2025–2026 academic year. Other universities, such as VU University in Amsterdam, have begun reducing staff in anticipation of the impending budget cuts. Despite supporting the strike, Leiden University's board chose not to close the institution for the day, proceeding with examinations, PhD ceremonies, and lectures as scheduled. This protest marks the beginning of a series of seven strikes organized by trade unions FNV and AOB, along with student groups, with subsequent actions planned at other universities, including Utrecht University on March 11 and concluding at Tilburg University on April 10.

Source: <https://www.dutchnews.nl/2025/03/hundreds-protest-about-budget-cuts-at-leiden-university/>

Lithuania

According to the magazine Reitingai, the number of students in Lithuanian higher education institutions has fallen by more than 65,000 over 14 years. Despite more and more foreigners are choosing to study in Lithuanian higher education institutions every year, universities are still struggling to attract Europeans. Students from India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, and former Soviet countries dominate the institutions.

Although the number of foreign students is increasing, overall enrolments are still lower than 14 years ago. This year, 45,000 fewer students enrolled at Lithuanian universities and 20,000 fewer started their studies at colleges. The falling birth rates are one of the blames for this change. Another reason for this according to MRU Vice Rector, Saulius Spurga is the decreased state funding for social sciences as well as the changing structure of the students between the ones on funding and the ones who are not.

Source: <https://www.lrt.lt/en/news-in-english/19/2497809/birth-rate-effect-lithuanian-universities-lose-65-000-students-in-14-years>

Serbia

According to the 2025 March news report, the phantom organizations are hoovering up Serbian public money. In 2022 and 2023, Serbia's Education Ministry allocated nearly €200,000 to 11 non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to conduct violence prevention workshops in schools. Investigations by the Balkan Investigative Reporting Network (BIRN) revealed that these NGOs were interconnected, linked to a small group of individuals, and lacked basic public presence—such as websites, social media profiles, registered employees, or contact information. Following a tragic school shooting in Belgrade in May 2023, the ministry disbursed €430,000 to various local NGOs, with six of them receiving approximately €15,000 each for organizing violence prevention workshops. Despite the substantial funding, many of these workshops were either poorly attended or did not occur. For instance, at the Railway Technical School in Belgrade, only one out of three planned workshops took place, with just 34 students attending, contradicting organizers' reports of 350 participants over three sessions. Central figures in this network include Tatjana Borojević, Biljana Čakovan, and her husband, Slobodan. They, along with their associates, have established a web of NGOs and agencies over the past decade, effectively monopolizing state-funded school workshops.

Source: <https://balkaninsight.com/2025/03/06/school-scams-the-phantom-organisations-hoovering-up-serbian-public-money/>



Sweden

There is a growing interest among Swedish students in vocational programs at the upper secondary school level. However, the Swedish National Agency for Education (Skolverket) has observed that this interest is not aligning with labor market demands. Specifically, programs like Sales and Service have seen a 12% increase in first-year students, and Hotel and Tourism programs have grown by 17%. Conversely, sectors experiencing workforce shortages, such as Construction and Installation, have witnessed a 10% decline in new enrollments, while Healthcare and Social Care programs have seen only marginal growth. To address these imbalances, a recent amendment to the Education Act mandates that municipalities tailor their program offerings to better reflect labor market needs. Despite these efforts, a significant concern remains over 37,000 students are enrolled in introductory programs this academic year, marking a 2% increase from the previous year and indicating challenges in meeting eligibility requirements for national programs. Currently, out of 372,000 upper secondary students, 67% are in college preparatory programs, and 33% are in vocational tracks. The most popular college preparatory programs are Social Sciences and Economics, while the largest vocational program is Electrical and Energy, followed by Construction and Installation. Anders Håkansson, a unit manager at Skolverket, emphasizes the importance of aligning student interests with labor market needs to ensure a balanced and effective workforce in the future.

Source: <https://swedenherald.com/article/the-school-authority-too-many-students-want-to-become-salespeople>

United Kingdom

Pro-Palestine students have claimed that the University of Cambridge in the UK deploys a 'punitive security culture' in response to protest, amid rising numbers of investigations by the university's counterterrorism and freedom of speech committee. In the last 2023/24, eight cases were considered by the Committee – an increase from the previous academic years. The increase in cases correlates with increasing student mobilization for Palestinian liberation and aligns directly with punitive security culture the University has been cultivating as a response to this as part of the Prevent Program. Cambridge for Palestine (C4P) also criticized the wider use of the Prevent scheme which according to them, upholds a racist security culture that targets people of color, working class, and primarily Muslim communities, manufacturing a pretext for policing and censorship, often disproportionately around Palestine.

Source: <https://www.varsity.co.uk/news/29293>



Ukraine

Undaunted by the turmoil of the Russian invasion, the European Union has scaled up its presence in the Ukrainian research sector, establishing funding channels and offices in Kyiv. In 2024, for the first time, applications for grants at Ukraine's Ministry of Education and Science considered European values such as gender balance, open science, and the impact of results on society. If these developments gain momentum, a new era of Ukrainian research could be in sight. EU support for Ukrainian research includes three initiatives, launched in December 2023: a Kyiv-based office for Horizon Europe, the EU's research and innovation (R&I) program, a commitment to award funding to at least 200 Ukrainian 'deep-tech' start-ups, and a technology and innovation hub in Kyiv. The Ministry of Education and Science of Ukrainian has announced plans for a comprehensive review of the country's research infrastructure, including auditing all research institutions to determine the current state of their research practices.

Source: <https://www.nature.com/articles/d41586-025-00473-w>





NORTH, CENTRAL AND SOUTH AMERICA

Canada

On March 10, a union representing about 2,000 graduate students at Queen's University, Ontario, working as teaching fellows and teaching or research assistants went on strike after failing to reach a contract agreement with the university administration. The striking workers demand higher wages, better benefits, and improved working conditions. They argue that their current salaries are insufficient to cover rising living costs, particularly housing and inflation. The strike affects nearly 2,000 graduate student workers who are essential to the university's teaching and research operations. Many classes, tutorials, and research projects have been disrupted due to the strike. Students and faculty members have expressed mixed reactions, with some supporting the strike and others concerned about its impact on academic progress. The union is also advocating for better job security and improved mental health support for graduate workers. Some strikers have emphasized that they are struggling financially despite working long hours in both teaching and research roles.

Source: <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/ottawa/queens-university-kingston-ontario-strike-graduate-student-1.7478717>



United States

The number of college students transferring to a new institution in the United States increased by 4.4% this year according to a new report from the National Student Clearinghouse Research Center. The boost builds on last year's 5.3% transfer increase and marks a total 8% increase since 2020, when the pandemic kicked off a precipitous 14% decline in transfer enrolment. Meanwhile, non-transfer postsecondary enrolment is still 3.5% behind 2020 levels. There were nearly 1.2 million transferring students in 2024, making up 13% of non-freshman undergraduates, slightly more than in 2020. This increase is good news for education in the US. The growth in transfers this fall is a further indication that students are adjusting their postsecondary goals in response to challenging education and labor market conditions. This also means students are finding institutions that 'better meet their needs.'

Source: <https://www.insidehighered.com/news/admissions/transfer/2025/03/05/transfers-are-community-college-enrollment-grows>



OCEANIA

Australia

Australia's international education sector is facing increasing challenges due to shifting student preferences and policy changes. The growing appeal of Asian education hubs like Malaysia and Singapore presents strong competition, requiring Australian institutions to highlight their unique advantages in academic quality and employability. Stricter immigration policies and a government-imposed cap on international student numbers may reduce Australia's attractiveness, affecting university revenues and student enrolments. Additionally, changing trends in student mobility, such as the rising demand for postgraduate education among Chinese students and a projected decline in Indian enrolments, require targeted recruitment strategies.

Source: <https://mycoursefinder.au/en/post/4336-Australia-s-Education-Sector-Navigating-2025-Challenges>



Fiji

The rise in crimes against women in Fiji poses a significant challenge to education by impacting the mental and physical well-being of women and girls. With 64% of women experiencing domestic violence double the global average many face barriers to continuing their education. Unreported rapes and the increasing involvement of young people in gender-based violence further hinder the safety and participation of women in schools. Additionally, issues like technology, climate change, and drug abuse exacerbate the risks faced by women, making it harder for them to access quality education.

Source: <https://www.fbcnews.com.fj/news/growing-concern-over-crime-against-women/>