



New appointment to Educate Girls' UK Advisory Council to back global outreach on gender equality

- **Educate Girls' eight-member Advisory Council champions the cause of gender-equitable education, enabling out of school girls to return to quality education**

April 29, 2020, Mumbai and London: [Educate Girls](#), a non-profit working in remote rural regions of India, today announced the appointment of Vikas Pota, Former CEO and Chairman of the Varkey Foundation, to its UK-based Advisory Council.

In the current global pandemic, it is imperative to collaborate and broaden networks to achieve Sustainable Development Goal 4 (SDG) – ensuring inclusive and equitable quality education and promoting learning opportunities, and SDG 5 to achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls, who will be disproportionately impacted due to Coronavirus.

Educate Girls' Advisory Council has come together over the last year to elevate discussions around girls' education on the global development agenda, and increase representations on gender equity, global education and policy, philanthropy, international financing and research.



Vikas Pota, the most recent member to join the Advisory Council brings vast experience in advocating for education on the global stage. He said, "We know that in these difficult times, inequity in education is widening. Keeping a focus on girls' education is ever more crucial as they're impacted the most. I've been deeply impressed by Educate Girls for their work and advocacy on behalf of girls all over the world. For this reason, I am honoured to join their Advisory Council in their fight for a quality education for all."

Announcing the appointment, **Founder and Executive Director, Safeena Husain**, said, "We are extremely excited to bring together this fantastic group of individuals who have been of tremendous support to Educate Girls, some more recently and some over many years. We have a hugely ambitious but achievable plan for the next five years of bringing 40% out of school girls back to school in India. With the Advisory Council's expert advice and outreach, we hope to bring the vital importance of girls' education higher up on the agenda of global leaders. Together, we will ensure that the fight to get every girl in school is fully funded and won!"

With the appointment of Vikas Pota, Educate Girls' Advisory Council includes:



Antonella Notari Vischer, former head of Womanity Foundation, who supports global outreach to the vibrant women and girls' philanthropy sector and is a key advisor to the charity in Europe.



Gul Mukhey, currently leads Business Development in Europe for Uber, and has a long history with Educate Girls, having sat on their Board in India for a number of years and brings both financial governance expertise and his network to their work.



Eric Levine, Founder and CEO of Citizen Insight and a partner at Leader's Quest brings a depth of knowledge of the global NGO sector and great insight into both the global funding and programming space for girls.



Pooja Warier Hamilton, an entrepreneur herself, was a part of the founding team for The Conduit's impact investment arm. She is currently serving as a strategic advisor to a private family office and as an Executive Director for Apolitical Foundation. She brings to the advisory group a wide-ranging experience of both the Indian and UK social sector.



Puja Jain, partner at Generation Investment Management, is passionate about representing the charity's work to the Asset Management sector and has a particular interest in the intersection of girls' education and empowerment and climate change.



Sonal Shah, Senior Advisor at Greenwood Place brings both expert fundraising experience as the former CEO of The London Community Foundation and her experience as a philanthropy advisor.



Stephan Chambers, Founding Director of The Marshall Institute at The London School of Economics and former Director of the Skoll Centre for Social Entrepreneurship at Oxford supports Educate Girls with his wide-reaching network and insights into the world of academia.

ABOUT EDUCATE GIRLS

Established in 2007, Educate Girls' focus is on mobilising communities and leveraging government's investment for improving girls' education in India. Aligned to the 'Right to Education Act', the organisation is strongly committed to the Government's vision to improve access to primary education for children, especially young girls. By leveraging the Government's existing investment in school, Educate Girls delivers measurable results to a large number of beneficiaries and avoids duplication or parallel delivery of services. Educate Girls believes that if girls are educated, they will have the potential to enter the formal economy, gain employment and lift their families out of poverty. The sustainability and scalability of the model has enabled Educate Girls to consistently expand operations to include more districts. It is now actively working with the Government and with rural communities across 13,000 villages in the states of Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh. To date Educate Girls has helped to enroll over 500,000 girls into public schools ensuring over 94% retention of the girls enrolled. Learn more at www.EducateGirls.ngo