

The following 'Call to Action' has been translated into several languages and is being circulated around the globe.

1. All higher education institutions express a strategic commitment to genuine community engagement, societal relevance of research and education and social responsibility as a core principle.
2. Community engagement activities be based on two-way communication and guided by values of inclusion, mutual respect, integrity, freedom and democratic decision-making.
3. Recognise and support the role of community partners in the creation and co-creation of knowledge.
4. Scholars, researchers, students, practitioners, communities and their networks be enabled to participate in public engagement activities through appropriate training, and support.
5. Scholars, researchers, students, practitioners, communities and their networks be recognised and valued for their involvement with public engagement.

6. In the interest of achieving global targets and world equity challenges as expressed by the Millennium Development Goals and other such statements, investment be strengthened to build community-university engagement capacities especially in the global South with attention to vulnerable populations and less wealthy countries.

7. Rather than world-ranking systems for higher education that are often ineffective in advancing engagement practices, we support appraisal systems such as the Alternative University Appraisal system (in collaboration with the United Nations University) as development tools.

We believe that the transformative potential of our community sector organisations and our higher education institutions is enhanced when we combine our collective knowledge, global connections, skills and resources to address the myriad of social, economic, cultural, health and environmental challenges in our places and regions.



GLOBAL ALLIANCE ON COMMUNITY ENGAGED RESEARCH

**Policy and Advocacy
Network**

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(Click on Global Alliance tab)

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Global Alliance on Community Engaged Research

The Global Alliance on Community-Engaged Research was created by representatives of universities, networks and civil society organizations at the May 2008 Community University Expo Conference in Victoria, BC, Canada, hosted by the University of Victoria. GACER examines how the strengths of various existing networks could be best advanced for the common global purpose of using knowledge and community-university partnership strategies for democratic social and environmental change and justice, particularly among the most vulnerable people and places of the world. An added purpose is to see how the voice of majority world researchers and activists can be prominent in the emerging global networks. All of this is with the aim of strengthening the capacity of grass roots organizations to make a difference in the pressing and complex issues of poverty, violence, climate change, injustice, and health throughout the world.

HIGHER EDUCATION, COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND THE WORLD WE WANT

A Policy Brief to the World Conference on Higher Education, July 5-8, 2009

GACER proposed to the UNESCO Conference some recommendations for action based on real experiences in Member States by stakeholders for strengthening community university partnerships in achieving collective goals for reforming the role of higher education in sustainable development. GACER believes these recommendations could contribute to the success of UNESCO's forward planning for global collaboration on the future trajectory of higher education's role in contributing to the challenges facing our nations, people and world.

Global Dialogue Enhancing North-South Cooperation in Community-University Engagement

On September 23rd 2010, GACER gathered eight international networks supporting community university engagement across the world gathered to participate in the first Global Video Dialogue on Enhancing North-South Cooperation in Community-University Engagement. Representing several thousand universities, both university-led and community-led professional bodies and civil society organisations. Networks that gathered for the Global Dialogue on

- Enhancing North-South Cooperation in Community-University Engagement were as follows: **Centro Boliviano de Estudios Multidisciplinarios, Commonwealth Universities Extension and Engagement Network, Global Alliance on Community Engaged Research (GACER), Global Universities Network for Innovation (GUNI), Living Knowledge Network, PASCAL International Observatory, Participatory Research in Asia, and the Talloires Network.**