

Dear Harry and Meghan..

EDUCATION FOR ALL WELCOMES THE DUKE AND DUCHESS OF SUSSEX TO OUR BOARDING HOUSES. THANK YOU FOR VISITING US

Thank you for supporting girls' education in Morocco!





It is hugely exciting to have TRH The Duke and Duchess of Sussex here for the next few days, and I am delighted to have this opportunity to showcase the vital roles that girl's education and youth empowerment are playing in shaping Modern Morocco. When we began planning for this visit, I had a very clear view in my mind of the story we wanted this visit to tell, and in a fortunate stroke of serendipity, we have found that this story fits with interests close to TRH's hearts."

Thomas Reilly, British Ambassador to Morocco
and Patron of Education For All



A very proud day for EFA!

‘Waking up today we wonder, did it really happen? Harry and Meghan, the Duke and Duchess of Sussex, came to our small town in Morocco, visited our boarding houses where we come from our far away villages to access the schools; told us we were role models, and brought smiles and warmth into our hearts. It was a perfect day, a day we will never forget, a day when the empowerment of girls through education was celebrated and all those working towards it were honoured. Thank you Harry and Meghan and all who made this special day possible. We would love to see you again. Our door is always open to you.’

On Sunday, February 24th, 2019, Their Royal Highnesses, the Duke and Duchess of Sussex, visited Asni 3 and Asni 1, the first boarding house opened by Education For All in 2007. As a bonus to an exciting day, Mike McHugo, the founder of EFA, was awarded the MBE for services to improving gender equality in education in Morocco.



A huge thanks to the British Embassy in Rabat and our Patron Thomas Reilly for making this special visit happen! You have supported us greatly over the last two years and helped us share our story with the rest of Morocco... and now the world!



THE PREPARATION

Dear Harry and Meghan,

I helped with the preparation of the royal visit. When I heard you were coming to Dar Asni 3 I couldn't believe it. We worked hard to prepare the house and the girls to this visit. It was stressful but I didn't show it to Khadija and the girls. I told the girls that they should just react as usual and be themselves, but inside of me I was thinking "how can you be yourself in front of the royal couple?!" It was really exciting and reassuring to see all the EFA staff involved, it couldn't go wrong. All the girls were asking advices on their clothes and how they could answer to questions etc...it was rewarding to be able to help them. The visit went well, it was like a dream to see you as I'm a real fan. My family and friends were really happy for me and proud of me, proud to see me on TV and on the social medias. I arrived, I was welcomed like a star! I'm so grateful to have been part of this adventure and generally to be part of EFA.

Khaoula



Everyone was involved during the preparation, everyone wanted to welcome the couple the best way possible but remaining simple and attached to the Berber hospitality. The house mothers, the cooks and the house cleaners made a really good job. I was impressed by all the Moroccan cookies and pancakes they made, they were so delicious and they spent many hours and no sleeping nights to made them, with love of course.

We've been to Marrakech the day before the visit to buy the flowers and all the products for the henna ceremony. Back to the houses we had many things to do, display the posters and our photos in the houses' walls, and more important make sure that the house mothers and the girls de-stress ! I think that no one really slept during the last night. We woke up early and everyone had a last task to do, the girls were excited, we could hear them laughing and asking advices to Khadija and the other girls about the way they should dress etc... Everyone was ready, Khadija had a last talk with all the girls to motivate them and to remind them just to be themselves.

After the visit, when I asked the girls what they will remember about the visit, they all agreed that they will remember how Meghan was beautiful and how modest was the couple.

Karima Targaoui
Volunteer Co-ordinator



Preparing the sugar cone, without which no welcome to a Moroccan home would be complete



Everyone lends a hand!

Latifa Mina

It's nice to see them visiting my country Morocco. Thanks for everything you do to support Education in Morocco. We appreciate it.
Islam Amal

THE VISIT

When the couple arrived at the boarding house they were greeted by some of the older students, including Hasnaa, 16, who handed Meghan a bouquet.

“The henna tattoo is a traditional practice for pregnant women in Morocco,” said House Mother, Khadija Oukattou. “It is to bless the mother and the baby and to prevent evil spirits to harm them during labor.”

“That’s really lovely,” Megan told Samira, the girl who applied the henna tattoo.



“It’s a dream for us to have the couple here,” continued Khadija. “They are from a very far villages in the mountains and meeting the prince and princess makes them very proud. They have given confidence to the girls here and will help other girls in the future,” adding, “I will

remember how Meghan looked at my girls with love, she was definitely empathic and concerned.”

The royal couple then headed to the school where the girls from Education For All attend classes, where they chatted with teachers and watched a soccer match.



Welcomed to Asni by a traditional song of greeting



Dear Harry and Meghan,

I was one of the singers who welcomed you. We prepare the arrival for 10 days before the visit, when we heard that you will come in Asni to meet us, we couldn’t believe it, we were so excited and immediately felt a bit of a knot in our stomach, how do we have to react in front of you? What will we have to say? How will I react if I don’t understand your question? Many questions came to our minds. Then Khadija told me that I’ll be among the girls who will sing to welcome you! I was so happy to be choose! We talked with the girls about the dresses that we’ll wear and we all agreed that we will wear Berber dresses, we wanted to show you our Berber culture. We choose our songs and we repeated them every day until the day itself.

When I went back to my village, everyone congratulates me, they all saw me on TV. Thanks to this visit, EFA definitely gain credibility in our villages.

Ghita



Hasnaa presents Meghan with a bouquet

Dear Harry and Meghan,

I was chosen to make the Henna tatoo. I was so anxious at the idea of doing it to the princess and in front of so many people, but I felt so lucky too! How many girls would love to be in my place?! The night before the visit, I prepared the henna. I wanted it to be natural and simple, just like we do it in our Berber culture. I squished the henna leaves and mix the powder with water. Usually we put the henna in a syringe so that the henna goes out thin and nice. But I was so afraid to have my hands shaking so I took off the needle. I heard the girls singing outside and I thought, ok it's my turn now! You were so a normal couple, nice and made me comfortable, my fear disappeared and I felt special, I just enjoyed the moment.

Samira



'When girls are given the right tools to succeed, they can create incredible futures.'

Meghan Markle

(Click on image to watch video)

THE PRESENTATION

👉 *Your Royal Highnesses, Duke and Duchess of Sussex*, and everyone present and not present who believes in girls' education and in particular all those who have helped with Education For All, who are many. What can I say but a huge thank you.

In 2007, when Education For All started in rented accommodation some two kilometres up the road with ten girls, it was very much a question of *do what you can, with what you have, where you are*.

Certainly, I never expected us to grow to five, soon to be six, houses with over two hundred girls. But that is a drop in the ocean of the need.

Thank you everyone who has made this visit today possible; thank you your Royal Highnesses for finding the time to shine a light on the importance of education, and girls' education in particular.

Receiving this MBE is of course a personal honour, one I never expected, but for me, this is really honouring Education for All and everyone who makes the work possible. So thank you; officers, volunteers past, present and future; and all donors without whom our work would not be possible.

There is of course an important group who I believe deserve a special mention, and that is the House Mothers, whose hard work, love, and passion for girls' education is, I believe, at the heart of what Education For All does – to provide a safe, loving, learning environment.

The other day I read these words, which I hope are appropriate; words to end on and hope Education For All plays its part in achieving.



*Education breeds Confidence
Confidence breeds Hope
Hope breeds Peace* 🍷

Michael McHugo MBE

THE MOVIE

Changing Worlds in the Atlas Mountains — A short film



[Click to view demo](#)

We want to create a short film about how a few dormitories are making a dramatic difference to the future for young women in rural Morocco.

Through a tender, touching observational documentary we'll show that world change starts with improved education and a little gentle, human kindness. Filmmaker Kuba Nowak recently spent time with the students in a remote mountain village in Morocco and heard from them in their words how a low-key charity in the Atlas Mountains is changing lives just by helping a few girls get a secondary education.

Why fund a film and not the charity directly?

We want to invest in making a truly independent, sensitive film— through this we also hope to reach a wider audience with artistic, sensitive editorial which will also inspire businesses globally to support this and similar initiatives in the way that a number of organisations and individuals support this charity, Education For All. We'll keep cost of production down, we will work with local businesses and pay a living wage at all times, and use the services of social enterprises where possible.

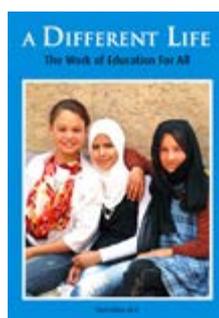
*“It would be great if this film could sensitise people to the role of women in society
– show the importance of education for girls and the value of educating women”*

Thomas Reilly, patron of Education For All and
British Ambassador to the Kingdom of Morocco

Click on the logos for more
information and stories.



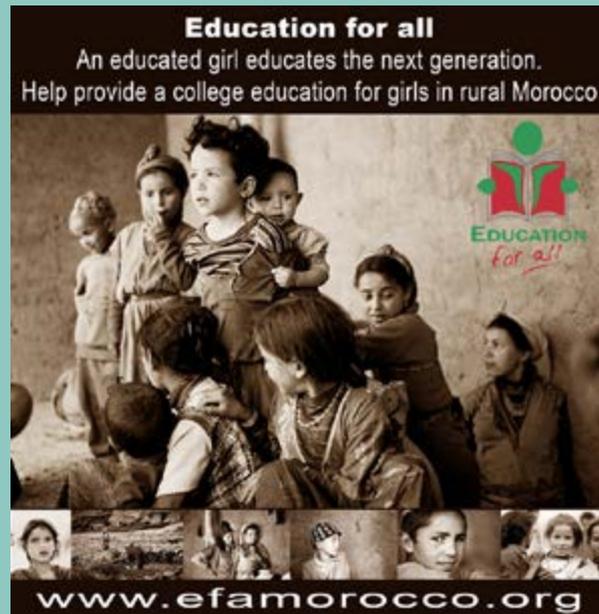
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The story of
Education For All



Mike McHugo receives
his MBE

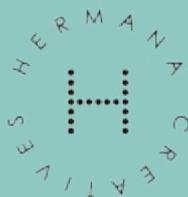


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A DIFFERENT LIFE

The Work of Education For All

Front cover by



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better late than never

Photos: Karima Targaoui, Alan Keohane
and others