



European network for adult literacy and numeracy
Réseau européen pour l'alphabétisation des adultes

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The important part I would say was when I was just leaving high school. I couldn't read or write. When I got married and had a family, I had great difficulty reading medication instructions. I had to go and get help. If it wasn't for the help of adult education I wouldn't be able to come to a conference like this for 3 years and be an ambassador for Scotland.

I was able to go on committees, fight for the rights of children, fight for education. I wouldn't be able to do all that if I couldn't read or write.

The European network is one of the best things that have come out of me being able to read and write that I could fight for other learners. If I can do it, so can they. And for all countries, as a European group of 18 countries, it's good. We have difficulties sometimes with language but we have overcome that barrier and we're all speaking either with hands, by listening or through interpreters. We've done well in the last 3 years and I think we should keep this fight going for as long as possible until we get the education system we want.

I want children to be coming out of school at 16 able to read, able to write, able to do numeracy and who don't need as much help. I want teachers to be better educated to recognise that a child may have difficulties rather than put them to the side of the class - give them some extra help on the subject so that they feel they're worth something and not feel they're worth nothing.

Then they will improve and their children will improve and this will continue into the future. So I would see that for us.