Emily Leys

Global Program Officer, Girls’ Education Program

Room To Read

Emily Leys joined Room to Read six years ago as the third member of its growing Global Office team. Since then, she has served in many roles at Room to Read and currently leads the global Girls’ Education program team. This holistic program aims to motivate, educate and empower disadvantaged girls and supports them through the completion of secondary school. The program includes life skills education, engages parents and communities, and provides local mentors for the over 6,800 girls that currently participate in the program in Cambodia, India, Laos, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Vietnam and Zambia.

Emily has spent the past 12 years focusing on global political and social issues, and her greatest passion is promoting gender equality. Emily lived in South Africa for three years working on youth empowerment education and successfully led a local youth program in Cape Town, for which she was honored as a Paul Harris Fellow by the Cape Town Rotary Club. Emily earned a master’s degree in South African and African Politics from the University of Cape Town, South Africa and holds a bachelor’s degree in politics from the University of California, Santa Cruz.