
The Weekly Pulse

NEWS FROM ORGANIZATIONS AND COALITIONS IN GLOBAL CHILD ADVOCACY



Vol. 123: Calls to Action, White House GPC Report, & UN Human Rights Council 52nd Session.

March 6, 2023

Calls to Action

The MINDS Act is set to be re-introduced this month by Rep. Susan Wild ([D-PA](#)) and Rep. Joe Wilson ([R-SC](#)) in the House and Sen. Bob Casey ([D-PA](#)) in the Senate. If your organization is interested in endorsing the MINDS Act in the 118th Congress, please do so by filling out this form [here](#). If you are interested in learning more, you can find the text of the bill from last year [here](#).

The End Violence Against Children Task Force is asking organizations to sign onto two letters for the FY24 Appropriations:

1. The **House State and Foreign Operations Appropriations Subcommittee** is focusing on the USAID Vulnerable Children account, State Department Child Protection Compacts, and funding for the implementation of a coordinated and

comprehensive effort to end child early and forced marriage. You can find the letter [here](#).

2. The **House Labor, Health and Human Services Appropriations Subcommittee** is focusing on the Violence Against Children Surveys (including report language) and the Bureau of International Labor Affairs (ILAB). You can find the letter [here](#).

If your organization is interested in signing on and/or you have any questions, please reach out to Mandy Slutsker (mslutsker@aap.org) and let her know which of the two letters (or both) your organization wants to sign on to by **Wednesday, March 8, 2023**.

Quick Summary

The U.S. Department of State and the Conflict Observatory released a [report](#) on “Russia’s Systematic Program for the Re-education and Adoption of Ukraine’s Children.” The report described how the Russian government has relocated over 6,000 Ukrainian children to Russian “re-education” camps. The Yale School of Public Health’s Humanitarian Research Lab identified “43 facilities involved in holding children from Ukraine since Russia’s 24 February 2022 invasion of Ukraine. The majority are recreational camps where children are taken for ostensible vacations, while others are facilities used to house children put up for foster care or adoption in Russia.” The key findings include:

- More than 6,000 children are in Russia’s custody.
- At least 43 facilities are in the network.
- The network of children’s facilities stretches from Russia-occupied Crimea to Russia’s eastern coast.
- The primary purpose of the camps appears to be political re-education.
- Children from two of the camps have been placed with foster families in Russia.
- Consent is collected under duress and routinely violated.
- Children’s returns from at least four camps have been suspended.
- All levels of Russia’s government are involved.

The Better Care Network, Human Rights Watch, Lumos Foundation, and Maestral International currently are inviting organizations to sign onto and endorse a [joint statement](#) on “Forced Deportation and Adoption of Children from Ukraine by Russia.” **Given the urgency of this issue, endorsements are sought by Friday, March 3, 2023, at 6 PM ET for the initial release, and signers are asked not to conduct any advocacy using this statement until after that time.** Signatures will continue to be accepted beyond that date and the document will be updated periodically. To add your

organization's name, email Florence Martin, Executive Director at the Better Care Network, (florence.martin@bettercarenetwork.org) with your organization's full name and logo. To read the U.S. Department of State press release and report, click [here](#).

The White House Gender Policy Council published its progress [report](#) to the President on the first U.S. National Strategy on Gender Equity and Equality. This report highlighted the progress toward its strategic priorities and what the USG plans to focus on this year. The progress report specifically mentioned its work around promoting the safety of women and girls around the world, providing access to education and training in digital skills abroad, and improving and expanding protection services for women and girls in humanitarian emergencies. In the future, they plan on defending access to reproductive health, increasing access to good jobs, giving families breathing room through financial relief, and achieving a future free from violence. To read the progress report, click [here](#).

The UN Human Rights Council kicked off its 52nd [Session](#) last week with a review of the annual report, human rights issues that need immediate attention, and more. Specifically, the review of the rights of people and of specific groups and individuals which included children, and the rights of the child and the digital environment. The 52nd session will end on April 4, 2023. Click [here](#) to learn more about what is being discussed and addressed.

Spotlight

Georgetown University Collaborative on Global Children's Issues held a [workshop series](#) on "Children in a World of Challenges." This series of events highlighted building pathways to resilience for vulnerable children and youth. Specifically, they stated that "the world currently has the biggest child and youth population in history, with 90% living in less developed countries and disproportionately affected by poverty, poor health, unemployment, violence, and exclusion. Children are facing increased poverty, entrenched inequality, and other pressing concerns, including climate change, conflict, displacement, social injustice, and political instability. They bear the brunt of these difficulties in their daily lives and will inevitably inherit all of the problem-solving these challenges require."

Key events included "Protecting the Rights of Children with Disabilities" and "The Case for Including Children and Youth in Foreign Assistance". During the Protecting the Rights of Children with Disabilities event, audience members heard from [Toby Long](#), Professor, Department of Pediatrics and Director of Professional Development at the Center for Child and Human Development at Georgetown University; [Priscila Rodríguez](#)

Benavides, Associate Director for Advocacy at Disability Rights International (DRI); [Claire Tebbutt](#), Student at the School of Foreign Service at Georgetown University; [Claire Trevithick](#), Student at the School of Health at Georgetown University; and [Clare Westerman](#), Student at the School of Health at Georgetown University. This event focused on “the research related to children with disabilities, services that are provided to young children and their families, and the status of the International Children with Disabilities Protection Act”. The event emphasized that “there are nearly 240 million children with disabilities throughout the world. Like all children, children with disabilities have the right to receive responsive care and education, adequate nutrition, and social protection, and to participate meaningfully in all aspects of community life. However, these rights are often denied because of stigma, lack of accessible services, institutionalization, and physical barriers.” To learn more about this event, click [here](#).

During the Case for Including Children and Youth in Foreign Assistance event, audience members heard from [Nicole Calvert](#), Program analyst, Children in Adversity team at USAID; [Rebecca Levy](#), Acting U.S. Government Special Advisor on Children in Adversity and Director of the Inclusive Development Hub within USAID’s Bureau for Development, Democracy, and Innovation (DDI); and [Mattito Watson](#), Senior Technical Advisor with the Children in Adversity Team at USAID. The facilitators made the case for “targeted support to children and youth through foreign assistance and provided an overview of current policies, programming, and best practices.” Participants also discussed the importance of the [Global Child Thrive Act](#), [Advancing Protection and Care for Children in Adversity](#) Strategy, and USAID’s [Youth in Development Policy](#). To learn more about this event, click [here](#).

Events

- Women’s Refugee Commission, Rozaria Memorial Trust, and King’s College London [webinar](#) “**Ending Child, Early, and Forced Marriage in East Africa: New Approaches.**” March 8, 2023, at 9 am ET.
- The D.C. Student Consortium on WPS [event](#) “**1325 Standing Strong: DCSCWPS International Women’s Day Celebration.**” March 8, 2023, at 7:30 pm ET in Washington, D.C.
- The Governments of Burkina Faso, Canada, Egypt, Italy, Zambia, and the European Union, with UNFPA and UNICEF [event](#) “**Harmful Practices: Catalyzing Innovation to End Female Genital Mutilation and Child Marriage.**” March 9, 2023, at 11:30 am ET in New York City, NY.
- Generation Global [virtual events](#) “**#MyFreedomDay Dialogues.**” March 13-17, 2023.
- SecurityWomen and WIIS [virtual event](#) “**CSW67 2023: Bridge to the Future: Women and Girls at the Center of Progress.**” March 14, 2023, at 10 am ET.

- Global Health Council [event](#) **“2023 Global Health Briefing Book Launch.”** March 16, 2023, at 9 am ET in Washington, D.C.
- Youth Economic Opportunities (YEO) [summit](#) **“2023 Global YEO Summit.”** May 16, 2023, in Washington, D.C.
- Disability Rights Fund, MADRE, Purposeful [event](#) **“Resourcing Disability Justice.”** March 29, 2023, at 10 am ET.

Reports, Articles & Resources

- Unlock Aid [article](#) **“Transparency Shifts the Power in Foreign Aid.”**
- OECD [article](#) **“Engaging young citizens: Civic Education Practices in the Classroom and Beyond.”**
- Aljazeera [article](#) **“US announces crackdown on child labor amid surge in violations.”**
- USAID [report](#) **“Youth and LGBTQ+ Participation in Nonviolent Action.”**
- Saferworld [story](#) **“‘I no longer feel like a prisoner, cornered and betrayed’: How safe spaces for women and girls are helping to uproot gender-based violence.”**
- Devex [article](#) **“Funding Tracker: Earthquake relief in Turkey and Syria.”**
- Human Rights Watch [campaign](#) **“Students Not Products.”**
- Inter-Agency Standing Committee Reference Group on Mental Health and Psychosocial Support [guidance](#) **“Addressing Suicide in Humanitarian Settings.”**
- Aljazeera [article](#) **“Half of Sri Lanka families reducing children food intake: Charity.”**



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