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# *The Weekly Pulse*

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NEWS FROM ORGANIZATIONS AND COALITIONS IN GLOBAL CHILD ADVOCACY



Vol. 108: Congressional Caucus for Children & Youth Globally, UN Security Council Debate, & Upcoming Events.

October 31, 2022

Call to Action

**USAID Bureau of Humanitarian Assistance is inviting public comments on its [draft](#) policy for Localization of Humanitarian Assistance.** This policy “outlines USAID’s phased trajectory for advancing the localization of humanitarian assistance over the next five years, from 2023 through 2028. It provides high-level guidance and strategic direction for USAID’s Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance (BHA), and applies to BHA efforts in both humanitarian response and early recovery, risk reduction, and resilience (ER4) efforts. The policy establishes a common vision for localization across the BHA’s humanitarian efforts, with coherence across messaging, policies, guidance,

and operations.” **Comments are due by Wednesday, November 9, 2022.** If your organization is interested in providing comments, please use the link [here](#).

### Quick Summary

**U.S. Representative to the UN Ambassador Linda Thomas-Greenfield gave remarks during the UN Security Council Debate on Women, Peace, and Security on the need for the protection of women and girls globally.** This debate was centered around the need to have women, peace, and security language integrated into all security council country resolutions. She emphasized that “Around the world, women and girls are under threat from conflict and repressive regimes. Under threat from climate and under threat from poverty. Risks have gone up, including the threat of kidnapping, torture, killing, and gender-based violence.” She also stated that “whether it is Iran or Afghanistan, Ukraine, Ethiopia, Haiti, or Burma or elsewhere, this is a moment. It is a moment where women and girls are looking to us, to this Security Council, to support them in their bravery, in their time of need. To do this, we must fortify the UN infrastructure we have established over the past decade to prevent conflict-related sexual violence.” To rewatch and read Ambassador Linda Thomas-Greenfield’s remarks, click [here](#).

**Amnesty International is seeking input from children and young people (ages 13-24) about their experiences on social media.** This survey aims to understand their experiences on social media and make social media platforms safer and better places. According to [UNICEF](#), it is estimated that “one child in three is an internet user, and that one in three internet users is a child under 18 years of age.” Social media and the internet can provide spaces for children and young people to express themselves, however, can expose them to sexual violence, abuse, and more. Click [here](#) to fill out the survey.

### Spotlight

**The U.S. Youth Peace & Security (YPS) [Coalition](#) and members of the Youth Alliance Working [Group](#) held its in-person advocacy day in Washington, D.C.** Participants urged Congress to support young peacebuilders, activists, human rights defenders, and mobilizers. The youth activists met with the offices of **Rep. Gerry Connolly ([D-VA](#))**, **Rep. Eric Swalwell ([D-CA](#))**, **Rep. Eleanor Norton ([D-DC](#))**, **John Curtis ([R-UT](#))**, **Rep. Don Beyer ([D-VA](#))**, **Rep. Derek Kilmer ([D-WA](#))** and **Rep. Grace Meng ([D-NY](#))**. Additionally, these youth activists met with officials from the U.S. Department of State and USAID.



This advocacy day centered around the passage of the [Youth, Peace, and Security \(YPS\) Act](#), which aims to give young people worldwide the political platform and financial support they need to advance peace in their communities. The **U.S. does not have a coherent or targeted approach** to supporting youth peacebuilders around the world. This bill would require the Department of State to coordinate the development and implementation of a **whole-of-government strategy** to promote the inclusive and meaningful participation of youth in peacebuilding and conflict prevention, management, and resolution, as well as post-conflict and recovery efforts. Additionally, this act would require the President to appoint a **coordinator within USAID** who, in addition to being responsible for leading the implementation of such strategy, would be authorized to provide grants, emergency assistance, and technical assistance to eligible youth-led civil society organizations and youth peacebuilding implementers.

**Additionally, the youth activists discussed the need for the creation of a Congressional Caucus for Children and Youth Globally. This proposal was received with high interest by congressional offices.** A nonpartisan Congressional Caucus for Children and Youth Globally would prioritize young people as future leaders and would work to ensure that global issues impacting children and youth are prioritized in US policymaking and financing. The Caucus would facilitate activities by Members of Congress to support better outcomes for children and youth around the world and to pursue a holistic approach that prioritizes issues affecting young people in international policy, programming, and funding. The Caucus would elevate the need to pass critical pieces of legislation, including the **Keeping Girls in School Act (H.R.4134) (S.2276)**, the **MINDS Act (H.R.3988) (S.2105)**, the **International Children with Disabilities Protection Act (S.4982)**, the **READ Act (H.R.2023)**, the **Global Learning Loss Assessment Act (H.R. 1500) (S. 552)**, as well as soon to be introduced legislation

**on online sexual exploitation and abuse of children and on violence against children globally**, and more. The Caucus would also focus congressional attention on other critical recommendations that would elevate children and youth systematically as a higher priority for the US government.

To learn more about the YPS Act, click [here](#). To learn more about the Congressional Caucus for Children and Youth Globally, click [here](#).

#### Events

- UNICEF & PLAN International [webinar](#) **“Moving beyond gender parity—why is gender important in early childhood education?”** November 2, 2022, at 6 am ET.
- The International Olympic Foundation and MHPSS.net [virtual event](#) **“Uniting Good Practices from Sport, Mental Health and Psychosocial Support to Support Young People Affected by Displacement.”** November 3, 2022, at 9 am ET.
- USAID Leading through Learning Global Platform [virtual event](#) **“Higher Education Learning Network (HELN) Community Building Forum.”** November 3, 2022, at 10 am ET.
- The NGO Panel on Children Deprived of Liberty [hybrid event](#) **“Global Forum on Justice for Children and Deprivation of Liberty.”** November 8-9, 2022.
- End Violence Against Children, WeProtect Global Alliance, European Parliament, & Child Rights Intergroup [virtual event](#) **“Safe Digital Futures for Children: Data for Change.”** November 17, 2022, at 4 am ET.

#### Reports, Articles & Resources

- Child Safety Online Now YouTube [video](#) **“Child Safety Shouldn't Stop Online.”**
- The Guardian [article](#) **“Virtually all children on Earth will face more frequent heatwaves by 2050.”**
- Global Fund for Children [blog post](#) **“Youth action on climate and their future.”**
- The World Bank [report](#) **“Loud and Clear: Effective Language of Instruction Policies for Learning.”**
- Forbes [article](#) **“How Further Expanding The Child Tax Credit Could Keep Child Poverty Low.”**
- OECD education [tool](#) **“Career Readiness”**.

#### Professional Opportunity

**RESULTS has opened its application for its 2023 RESULTS Organizing and Advocacy Fellowship.** This Fellowship seeks to “inspire and train advocates in the movement to influence political decisions that will bring an end to poverty. The

Fellowship is an opportunity for young adults (20-35) to broaden their experience and knowledge in the operations and organization of Congress while advocating on key poverty issues, like global health and affordable housing. RESULTS provides training and support to speak powerfully, engage with the media, advocate directly to members of Congress, and mobilize your community.” **Applications are due November 30, 2022. To learn more about this fellowship and apply, click [here](#).**



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