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# *The Weekly Pulse*

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NEWS FROM ORGANIZATIONS AND COALITIONS IN GLOBAL CHILD ADVOCACY



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**Vol. 112: C is for Cookie Social, 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence, & U.S. Department of State Special Envoy for Global Youth Issues.**

November 28, 2022.

Spotlight: C is for Cookie Social with Cookie Monster

**The Thrive [Coalition](#), including many Children Policy & Funding Initiative [Grantees](#) such as World Vision, First Focus, Global Campaign for Education-US, and UNICEF USA held a Hill event “C is for Cookie Social with Cookie Monster.”** This event helped make the connection between how Early Childhood Development (ECD) interventions maximize US foreign assistance programs and how Members of Congress can support ECD globally. Timed to occur around the International Day of the Child, the event provided a fun and relaxing environment for Hill staffers to learn about ECD through first-hand experiences created by Thrive Coalition members who implement ECD interventions on the ground globally.



*Photos from top left to bottom right: [American Academy for Pediatrics](#), [First Focus](#), [UNICEF USA](#), & [GCE-US](#)*

This event broadened the base of support in Congress for global early childhood development and how to help children around the world not only survive but thrive. Speakers included [Margaret Schuler](#), Chief Impact Officer/Senior Vice President, International Programs, World Vision USA, [Alison Bryant](#), Chief Impact Officer, Sesame Workshop, and [Dr. Lee Beers](#), MD, Immediate Past President of the American Academy of Pediatrics. In addition, the event featured a short “What is ECD?” [video](#) on the importance of ECD.

**Rep. Joaquin Castro (D-TX) and Rep. Brian Fitzpatrick (R-PA) also received the American Academy of Pediatrics Excellence in Public Service Award for their role in getting the Global Child Thrive Act passed. Both spoke about the need for continued investment in global ECD.**



*Photos from top left to bottom right: Rep. Joaquin Castro ([D-TX](#)); Rep. Joaquin Castro ([D-TX](#)), Rep. Brian Fitzpatrick ([R-PA](#)) & [Dr. Lee Beers](#), MD, FAAP, Immediate Past President, the American Academy of Pediatrics; Rep. Brian Fitzpatrick ([R-PA](#)) & Rep. Joaquin Castro ([D-TX](#))*

To learn more about this event and the Thrive Coalition, click [here](#).

### Quick Summary

**President Biden [issued](#) a Presidential Memorandum on Promoting Accountability for Conflict-Related Sexual Violence** in order to “strengthen the U.S. government’s efforts to combat conflict-related sexual violence (CRSV), a too-often overlooked and underreported crime.” This memorandum complement’s the Biden Administration’s efforts, including “Leveraging sanctions authorities, assistance restrictions, and other tools to promote accountability for perpetrators of CRSV,” “Ensuring acts of CRSV are given equal consideration alongside other serious human rights abuses in developing designations under existing sanctions authorities; and,” “Continuing to build a coalition of like-minded nations and international organizations to prevent and promote accountability for acts of CRSV.” The Biden Administration also has pledged to “Strengthen Support to the UN Special Representative to the Secretary-General on

Sexual Violence in Conflict,” “Bolster Civil Society Efforts to Investigate and Document CRSV,” “Deliver Services and Support for Survivors of Gender-Based Violence in Emergency & Conflict Settings” which includes the soon to be launched Safe from the State ReVisioned, and “Increase Access to Justice, Protection, and Services to Survivors of Gender-Based Violence, including CRSV.” The US government also committed \$10 million over 2 years to support civil society organizations to document sexual violence in conflict. These announcements occurred in the context of the Preventing Sexual Violence in Conflict conference hosted by the United Kingdom. To read the full White House press release, click [here](#).

**The U.S. Department of State marked the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence by releasing a [statement](#) by Secretary of State Antony Blinken.** He stated that “despite great strides to prevent and respond to the pervasiveness of gender-based violence around the world, violence remains deeply entrenched in gender and social norms and persists in homes, schools, communities, workplaces, and increasingly, in virtual and online spaces.” He also highlighted that **“One in three women and girls will experience sexual or physical violence in their lifetimes…”** and that **“One in five girls is married when still under the age of 18, and one in three women and girls lives in a country where marital rape is not an explicit crime.”** Secretary Blinken announced that the **U.S. Strategy to Prevent and Respond to Gender-Based Violence Globally will soon be released** and that the State Department will be **partnering with USAID to launch the Safe from the Start ReVisioned initiative** to “prevent, mitigate, and respond to gender-based violence in humanitarian emergencies and protect survivors or those at risk from the onset of emergencies.” Additionally, he underscored that the United States will **“continue efforts to promote women and girls’ safety online through the Global Partnership for Action on Gender-Based Online Harassment and Abuse and the White House Taskforce to Address Online Harassment and Abuse.”** To read Secretary Blinken’s full statement, click [here](#).

**[Abby Finkenauer](#) was [appointed](#) as the U.S. Department of State Special Envoy for Global Youth Issues.** In a statement by Secretary of State Antony Blinken, he highlighted that she “began her career in public service when she was elected – at age 25 – to the Iowa House of Representatives and later became one of the first women elected to represent Iowa in Congress. As the youngest woman to ever pass a bill in the U.S. House of Representatives, Special Envoy Finkenauer knows from experience the key role youth voices and perspectives play in policymaking and good governance.” As the Department’s Special Envoy for Global Youth Issues, Finkenauer will “serve as the Department’s principal public representative on youth issues, engaging a variety of stakeholders to channel their good ideas back to the Department. She will encourage

youth-related programming around the administration's foreign policy priorities and existing regional initiatives, while consistently and meaningfully consulting with young people on the formulation and implementation of relevant policies and programs." To read the full announcement, click [here](#).

**The G7 Interior and Security Ministers released a [statement](#) highlighting the serious threats to children on the World Day for the Prevention of and Healing from Child Sexual Exploitation, Abuse, and Violence.** They stated that "Protecting children around the world, both online and offline, from child sexual exploitation and abuse is a global task. We underscore that the protection of our children remains our highest priority." The statement also affirms that "the internet offers many opportunities for perpetrators to groom, to abuse and to exploit children, to share images and videos depicting child sexual abuse, and to normalise these crimes." The G7 ministers support cross-sector cooperation with civil society and the private sector, the creation of services that are safe for children by design, and highlight the emerging misuse of "live streaming" when it comes to online sexual abuse of children. [Click](#) here to read the full G7 statement.

## Spotlight

**UNICEF and the RISE Institute held its third webinar "From Fragmented Fields to a Unity of Efforts for Early Childhood Development: The SDGs and Multisectoral ECD Monitoring and Evaluation Systems."** This event included an overview of the general components of multisectoral ECD monitoring, evaluation, and reporting systems, including interagency agreements; official policy/regulatory documents to establish these systems; selection of SDG, regional and national-level indicators; creation of multisectoral databases; and linking data reports to participatory ECD policy planning and annual budget and program planning and reporting.

The RISE Institute walked through its findings when it comes to multisectoral ECD monitoring, evaluation, and reporting systems. [Emily Vargas-Baron](#), the Director of the RISE Institute, kicked off the presentation by reviewing multisectoral M&E systems. She explained that in order to create multisectoral M&E systems that don't exist, organizations must "Create a common vision for ECD," "Identify key national decision makers and ECD leaders," "Study other existing decentralized systems," and "Help your country to develop a national ECD M&E system in tandem with participatory ECD policy planning."

[Carlos del Castillo Cabrales](#), a Senior Fellow at the RISE Institute, further explained the integrated monitoring for ECD. He emphasized that in order for a country to have comprehensive development, they need to make sure the child and family have good

health, adequate nutrition, responsive caregiving, security and safety, and opportunities for early learning. In order to achieve this, he recommended that countries use rights-based interventions. This includes immunization for mothers and children, growth monitoring and promotion, interventions that encourage play and communication activities of caregiver with the child, good-quality daycare for children and inclusive pre-primary education, support for appropriate complementary feeding, and cash or in-kind transfers. Lastly, [Kristel Dieh](#), the Research Program Assistant at the RISE Institute, outlined organizational structures for M&E systems. She affirmed that in order to implement a multisectoral M&E system, it requires official inter-institutional structures and agreements for multisectoral data sharing, ensuring sustainability because governments and personnel change, horizontal and vertical collaboration, and more. She also highlighted that “a critical factor for the success of any M&E plan is to ensure that children's needs are addressed by building a strong and coordinated ECD system.”

To learn more about their findings and the RISE Institute, click [here](#).

## Events

- Care International [webinar](#) “**Launch of What Works II report: Evidence for Action - What Works to Prevent Conflict-Related Sexual Violence.**” December 5, 2022, at 8 am ET.
- UN Women, the International Development Law Organization, Australian Aid, & Global Rights for Women Justice of Victims of Violence [webinar](#) “**Launch of the UN Women Guidance on Safe Consultations with Survivors of Violence Against Women and Girls.**” December 5, 2022, at 9 am ET.
- Disability Rights International in-person Hill event “**Briefing & Reception Supporting International Children with Disability Protection Act.**” December 5, 2022, at 3:30 pm ET. Please email Eric Rosenthal at [erosenthal@driadvocacy.org](mailto:erosenthal@driadvocacy.org) for RSVP information.
- The Latin America and Caribbean Gender Innovation Lab (LACGIL) & the LCR Social Sustainability and Inclusion (SSI) [virtual event](#) “**How Governments can Address Gender-Based Violence in Latin America and the Caribbean?**” December 6, 2022, at 10 am ET.
- Save the Children & Child Rights Connect [webinar](#) “**How to use United Nations Human Rights Resolutions to Advance Children's Rights.**” December 8, 2022, at 10:30am ET.
- The U.S. Department of State’s Secretary’s Office of Global Women’s Issues, the White House Gender Policy Council, & USAID’s Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment Hub, will launch the **2022 U.S. Strategy to Prevent and Respond to Gender-Based Violence Globally on December 12th at 9:00 am ET.** This virtual event will feature remarks from U.S. government leadership and a

panel with civil society advocates and partners. **Links to sign up and join to come.**

- OECD [webinar](#) “**Are students ready to take on environmental challenges? An international perspective based on PISA.**” December 13, 2022, at 10 am ET.
- MENA Youth Community of Practice (CoP) & Youth Lead Arabic (YLA) [virtual event](#) “**Youth at COP27: Reflections from MENA Youth for Climate Action Project (MYCA)**” December 14, 2022, at 8:30 am ET.

#### Reports, Articles & Resources

- Human Rights Watch [article](#) “**Many Children Returned from Syria Detention Doing Well.**”
- CECA Care Leaders Council training [materials](#) “**Dos and Don’ts of Meaningful and Inclusive Partnership with Youth.**”
- The Youth Cafe [policy brief](#) “**African Youth and Climate Change Policy Brief: A policy brief in light of COP27.**”
- ACP MEAs 3 Programme of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) [toolkit](#) “**Toolkit on Pro-Environmental Youth Engagement.**”
- Ms. Magazine [article](#) “**Ending the Global Child Sex Abuse Crisis.**”
- The World Health Organization [report](#) “**What works to prevent violence against children online?**”
- VOICE 7-part [report](#) “**Waiting for the Sky to Close: The Unprecedented Crisis Facing Women and Girls Fleeing Ukraine.**”

#### Professional Opportunity

**USAID is calling for youth applicants for its International Youth Digital Leadership Council or “Digital Youth Council”.** The Digital Youth Council will “positively incorporate youth voices and strengthen the capacity of youth participants to both (1) allow USAID to get reactions and creative ideas towards successfully fulfilling the goals of its Digital Strategy, and (2) strengthen the next generation of digital changemakers and advocates.” They are seeking applicants who are:

- Aged 16 to 24 years as of January 1, 2023;
- Have promoted or engaged in digital literacy, prevention of digital harm, or similar issues at a local, national, or international level;
- Have a good understanding of digital harm and how youth are accessing digital platforms and the internet in their region;

- Have a strong peer network and social media presence and can reach large numbers of young followers in their region;
- Have a proven ability to inspire and a reputation for inclusive, innovative leadership;
- Have working ability in English (both written and spoken);
- Are from a low- and middle-income country and/or very well acquainted with low- and middle-income country contexts and digital harm issues;
- Are able to engage in regular Digital Youth Council meetings using platforms, such as Google Hangout, Zoom, or Microsoft Teams.

**The deadline to apply is December 16, 2022.** To learn more about the Digital Youth Council and apply, click [here](#).



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