
The Weekly Pulse

NEWS FROM ORGANIZATIONS AND COALITIONS IN GLOBAL CHILD ADVOCACY



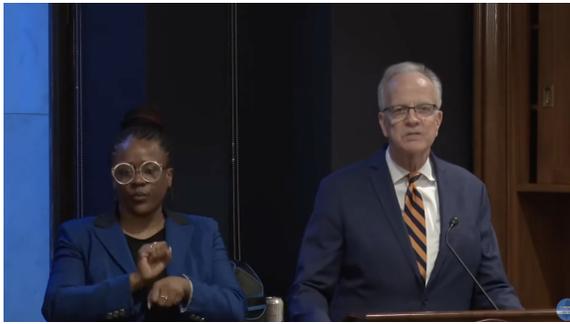
Vol. 113: International Children with Disability Protection Act Event, APCCA Event, & Safe from the Start ReVisioned launch.

December 12, 2022

Briefing & Reception Supporting International Children with Disability Protection Act

Disability Rights International held an in-person Congressional Briefing to highlight the needs of children with disabilities around the world and build support for the International Children with Disability Protection Act. The event venue was filled to full capacity and viewed through live stream by the senate and house staff, advocates with disabilities, child rights advocates, parent advocates, and more. The bipartisan [International Children with Disabilities Protection Act](#), which was introduced by Senators Bob Menendez ([D-NJ](#)) and Jerry Moran ([R-KS](#)), with additional [co-sponsors](#), seeks to bolster U.S. support for children with disabilities to keep them at

home and out of institutions and activists and reformers who work on their behalf. The bill has been endorsed by more than 100 disability and children's groups.



Photos from top left to bottom right: [Isabel Hodge](#), [The Honorable Judy Heumann](#), [Leonardo Hosh](#), and [Diana Autin](#); Senator Menendez ([D-NJ](#)); Senator Moran ([R-KS](#)); [Isabel Hodge](#), [Leonardo Hosh](#), and [Diana Autin](#).

Senators Menendez and Moran gave remarks on the importance of protecting and supporting children with disabilities and the potential impact of this Act. Senator Menendez stated that “As we sit here right now, there is an orphanage in Ukraine, where children with mental and physical disabilities are starving. Although they are sheltering in an orphanage, they are not orphans. They still call out for their mothers and fathers in the middle of the night. **Too often since the start of the war, children with disabilities have been left out of international relief and evacuation plans. Those of you who have worked on this issue for so long, you know these children and you know the trauma that they suffer. You know their families were forced to make heart-wrenching choices. You know that when conflicts erupt around the world, whether it's Syria or Cameroon or Ukraine, children with disabilities often suffer the most.**”

Senator Menendez also highlighted that “Beyond these conflict zones, the situation is not much better. **More than 1 billion are living with some sort of disability around the world today, and more than 240 million of them are children.** Many of them are

denied their most basic rights, excluded by their communities, they face stigma and discrimination. Their families don't have the resources or support systems to protect and take care of them, so they are caught not just a rock and a hard place, they send their children to live in a residential institution with absolutely abysmal conditions.”

Senator Moran echoed these remarks by stating “I am here to thank you for your support, your efforts, and **we'll do everything we can to make sure that this bill becomes something we call a law. We are delighted to join you in that effort.**”

In addition to the two Senators, the civil society panelists included [Isabel Hodge](#), Executive Director, the US International Council on Disability (USICD); [The Honorable Judy Heumann](#), former Assistant Secretary of Education for Special Education and Rehabilitative Services (OSERS), and former State Department Special Advisor on International Disability Rights; [Leonardo Hosh](#), Vice President for Child Protection and Education, World Vision; and [Diana Autin](#), Executive Co-Director, SPAN Parent Advocacy Network (New Jersey); Executive Director, National Center for Parent Leadership, Advocacy, and Community Empowerment (National PLACE). All gave moving remarks about their personal experiences with children and loved ones with disabilities and the challenges they faced.

To re-watch this event, click [here](#).

Quick Summary

First Focus [released](#) their Big Ideas Book 2023, with an international section for the first time. Big Ideas is an “occasional series where we bring together scholars, advocates, lawmakers, and other innovative thinkers to examine the needs of children and propose groundbreaking ways to improve their health, safety, and general well-being.” Through the Children’s Policy and Funding Initiative, the international section looked at how to elevate youth voice with a migrant youth-led photo research project by the Every Child Working Group and how to educate young people in the midst of conflict or disaster with a review of practices from multiple countries by the [Global Campaign for Education-US](#). GHR Foundation [CEO and Chair](#) Amy Goldman introduced the international section of the book by stating “Recognizing how sectors often work in siloes and the need for a multisectoral approach, GHR Foundation partnered with Oak Foundation and Wellspring Philanthropic Fund to create the Children’s Policy and Funding Initiative — a pooled- donor approach that helps tackle, in a holistic manner, the variety of issues children and youth face.” Additionally, she highlights that “Grantees are working to transform the U.S. government’s lens to one that prioritizes young people globally. In so doing, the initiative will improve and increase

policies, programming, and funding that address the myriad needs of the world's children and youth and will contribute to better outcomes for other important global priorities." To read the Big Ideas Book 2023, click [here](#).

The U.S. Department of State and USAID [launched](#) the Safe from the Start ReVisioned. This initiative focuses on "improving and expanding protection services for women and girls from the onset of every conflict or disaster." with an overarching goal to "better prevent and respond to gender-based violence risks that are magnified in emergencies, such as intimate partner violence, sexual violence, and child, early, and forced marriage. To do so, it calls on the global community to improve conventional humanitarian responses by placing women and girls at the center of these efforts as leaders and key stakeholders." The five main objectives include

- Increase in accountability to all women and girls in emergencies;
- Bring to scale effective GBV interventions at the field level – increasing the impact, number, and reach of quality, dedicated GBV prevention and response interventions in all types of emergencies;
- Amplify GBV expertise. Scale existing capacity of organizations to prioritize, design, staff and implement and coordinate GBV prevention and response programming;
- Drive increased representation and leadership of women and girls, specifically women's organizations, in decision-making structures and the delivery of humanitarian aid; and
- Ensure all humanitarian actors prioritize concrete actions to mitigate GBV risks and address the rights and unique needs of all women and girls.

To learn more about the Safe from the Start ReVisioned initiative, click [here](#).

The Reinforcing Education Accountability in Development (READ) Reauthorization Act passed the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. This was spearheaded by the Senate Foreign Relations Committee Chairman Bob Menendez, Ranking Member Jim Risch, Senator Dick Durbin, and Senator Marco Rubio. **The READ Act has already passed the [House](#)** and advocates are trying to get the senate version passed before the end of this Congressional session. Global Campaign for Education is asking advocates to take swift action to urge U.S. Senators to quickly pass the READ Reauthorization Act. Here are several quick and easy ways to take action:

- 1) Post your support on [Twitter](#) with this [click-to-tweet action](#);
- 2) Reach out to senators by email, phone, or social media to urge them to pass this bill before the end of the year. Suggested scripts/talking points in this [Action Toolkit](#) make this quick and easy;

3) *Do you/your networks have a connection in Utah or to Senator Mike Lee?* Please contact us directly (jrigg@gce-us.org) and we'd be glad to help with individual outreach, which is critical to ensure there aren't any holds or blocks placed on bill passage.

To learn more about the READ Reauthorization Act, click [here](#).

UNICEF [launched](#) a \$10.3 billion emergency funding appeal in its Humanitarian Action Appeal. This appeal includes the exacerbation of harm that is caused by the COVID-19 pandemic and climate change. UNICEF Executive Director Catherine Russell emphasized the importance of funding this appeal by underscoring the “lingering effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, and global economic disruption and instability, including inflation and the rising cost of food and fuel, have had a devastating impact on the lives and wellbeing of millions of the world’s most vulnerable children. The top 5 funding appeals for 2023 include Afghanistan with \$1.65 billion, Ukraine and Refugee Response with \$1.058 billion, Syrian Refugee Crisis with \$867 million, Democratic Republic of the Congo with \$862 million, and Ethiopia with \$674 million. To read and learn more about the UNICEF Humanitarian Action Appeal, click [here](#).

Spotlight

The Advancing Protection and Care for Children in Adversity ([APCCA](#)) Secretariat held a hybrid event on the upcoming update to its strategy. This was an opportunity for USAID to update civil society on the progress made and its plans for the strategy going forward, which will be renewed and re-envisioned next year. USAID highlighted its collaboration with [GHR Foundation](#) and [UBS Optimus Foundation](#) on efforts to improve care and well-being for children.

In addition to the updates from the APCCA Secretariat, [Bama Athreya](#), USAID Deputy Administrator for the Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment Hub and the Inclusive Development Hub in USAID’s Bureau for Development, Democracy, and Innovation, provided remarks emphasizing the advancements and commitment to support children around the world.

This gathering was also an opportunity for civil society coalitions to provide updates to USAID and the community. Among the updates were presentations from the [Early Childhood Development Action Network](#), the [Better Care Network](#), and the [Partnership to End Violence](#). The Acting U.S. Government Special Advisor on Children in Adversity & Acting Director of the Inclusive Development Hub within USAID’s Bureau for Development, Democracy, and Innovation (DDI), [Rebecca Levy](#), led a fireside chat with Mandy Slutsker of the [Thrive Coalition](#), Leila Milani of the End Violence Against

Children Task Force, and Alex Arriaga of the [Children's Policy & Funding Initiative](#). [Alex Arriaga](#). Arriaga, the Senior Strategy Advisor for the Children's Policy and Funding Initiative, spoke about how the initiative facilitates collaboration across sectors in the donor and advocacy community, supports a child-centered approach that looks at needs holistically, and advances a joint agenda across the children's advocacy sector to call on the US and other governments to make children a higher priority. .

Click [here](#) to learn more about the Advancing Protection and Care for Children in Adversity Strategy.

Events

- Search for Common Ground, African Union's Youth for Peace Program, Social Science Research Council, and United States Institute of Peace [hybrid event](#) **"Peace, Trade and Youth: Investing in the Future of US-Africa Cooperation"** December 12, 2022, at 8 am ET.
- The U.S. Department of State's Secretary's Office of Global Women's Issues, the White House Gender Policy Council, and USAID's Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment Hub, [virtual launch](#) **"2022 U.S. Strategy to Prevent and Respond to Gender-Based Violence Globally."** December 12th at 9:00 am ET.
- Women In International Security (WIIS) and the Embassy of Liechtenstein [webinar](#) **"Gender and International Criminal Justice: Atrocity Crimes and Protection of Victims and Witnesses."** December 12, 2022, at 10 am ET.
- UN Women [webinar](#) **"Sexual Harassment in Educational Settings."** December 13, 2022, at 9 am ET.
- **Education Cannot Wait High-Level Financing Conference 2023.** [In-person](#) February 16-17, 2022 in Geneva, Switzerland.

Reports, Articles & Resources

- World Vision US & Bangladesh Rohingya Crisis Response (BRCR) [video](#) **"PURPOSE: Bangladesh 2022."**
- OECD policy [book](#) **"Education Policy Outlook 2022: Transforming Pathways for Lifelong Learners."**
- We Trust Youth Initiative [report](#) **"Accountability Report 2022."**
- Humanitarian Action [report](#) **"Global Humanitarian Overview 2023."**
- PEW [article](#) **"More States Offer Health Coverage to Immigrant Children."**
- UNICEF Office of Research- Innocenti [article](#) **"At the intersection of childhood and womanhood, adolescent girls are falling through the cracks of violence prevention."**
- Human Rights Watch [article](#) **"In Iran, Schoolgirls Leading Protests for Freedom."**

- PLAN International [article](#) “5 Steps Every Organization Can Take to Involve Youth Leaders”

Professional Opportunity

UNICEF USA is seeking to hire qualified consultants (individuals or agencies) to support the organization in developing and implementing its public policy strategy in the United States. The consultancy will advise UNICEF USA’s Executive Office and Policy and Advocacy team, as well as UNICEF’s Public Partnerships Division, on appropriations and strategies to advance policy priorities by identifying and actively strategizing on key relationships and activations with members of Congress, the Executive Branch, and staffers while leveraging UNICEF USA’s leadership, a network of influencers and a broad range of supporters across the country. **The deadline to apply is January 3, 2022.** To learn more and apply, click [here](#).



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