
The Weekly Pulse

NEWS FROM ORGANIZATIONS AND COALITIONS IN GLOBAL CHILD ADVOCACY



Vol. 114:2022 U.S. Strategy to Prevent Gender-Based Violence Globally, reintroduced International Violence Against Women Act, & the Youth Alliance Working Group Updates

December 19, 2022

This week's newsletter will be the **last one for the year with updates resuming Monday, January 9th, 2023.** We hope everyone has an amazing holiday season and a Happy New Year!

Youth Alliance Working Group

The Youth Alliance Working Group ([YAWG](#)) of the CPF Initiative had its monthly meeting and discussed multiple updates. The YAWG is dedicated to providing a youth lens to the Children's Policy & Funding Initiative and advocating for children and youth globally. **Recently, the YAWG met with Rep. Grace Meng's ([D-NY](#)) office to**

discuss updates to the Youth, Peace, & Security Act ([H.R. 4838](#)), and the proposed Congressional Caucus for Children and Youth Globally. Additionally, representatives of the YAWG met with the **Congressional Coalition on Adoption Institute and the Congressional Coalition on Adoption Caucus**. This bicameral caucus supports “legislation and policy that improves the lives of children and families in the United States and around the world.” This conversation paved the way for potential collaboration in the next legislative session. For continuous updates, follow the YAWG on [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#), and [LinkedIn](#). To learn more about the YAWG, click [here](#).

Quick Summary

Congresswomen Jan Schakowsky (D-IL), Senator Jeanne Shaheen (D-NH), and Senator Susan Collins (R-ME) reintroduced the International Violence Against Women Act, a bicameral Bill to prevent and respond to gender-based violence worldwide. The bill focuses on US efforts to end, prevent, and respond to violence against women and girls and leverages “existing U.S. resources to combat and respond to gender-based violence, a critical step toward promoting the human rights and dignity of all individuals as well as regional and global stability.” Specifically, the International Violence Against Women Act would:

- Permanently establish the Office of Global Women's Issues in the U.S. Department of State to develop and implement a cohesive, cross-agency effort to advance the status of women and girls globally.
- Codify the Obama administration's Gender-Based Violence Strategy to ensure that victims and survivors of gender-based violence and harmful traditional practices around the world have better access to services, protection, and the justice they deserve.
- Update and enhance emergency response mechanisms for outbreaks of violence against women and girls abroad.
- Ensure that gender-based violence prevention and response are included in all U.S. humanitarian efforts.
- Focus on current resources more efficiently and effectively.

To read the full announcement, click [here](#). To read the full bill, click [here](#).

The governments of the United States of America, Australia, Canada, Chile, Iceland, New Zealand, the Republic of Korea, Sweden, and the United Kingdom released a joint statement on the Global Partnership for Action on Gender-Based Online Harassment and Abuse on Standing with the Women and Girls of Iran. This joint statement calls attention to the “extreme violence faced by the courageous Iranian women and girls who are leading sustained nationwide protests over the tragic death of

22-year-old Mahsa (Zhina) Amini.” Women and girls in Iran have faced targeted online harassment and abuse by Iranian authorities, their apparatuses, and institutions. The joint statement also emphasizes that “the women and girls of Iran bravely use these essential tools, even as Iranian authorities and their supporters misuse and abuse the same technologies against them, propagating coordinated online harassment, abuse, and disinformation campaigns designed to discredit them and silence their protests. This use of violence against women and girls in public life, which manifests both online and offline and is exacerbated by the scale, speed, and reach of technology platforms, is a deliberate tactic leveraged by illiberal actors around the world seeking to halt democratic movements and shore up their own political power.” To read the full joint statement, click [here](#).

Spotlight

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 released the 2022 U.S. Strategy to Prevent Gender-Based Violence Globally. This strategy “elevates the human rights of women and girls globally as a U.S. national security, diplomatic, and foreign assistance priority.” The third iteration of this strategy aims to “**advance equity and inclusivity** and address the factors that increase the risks of gender-based violence and undermine access to services and safety, particularly for the most marginalized groups; **support comprehensive approaches** for addressing gender-based violence priorities across a range of thematic areas; and **strengthen the commitment and work of the U.S. government** to scale what works, enhance our partnerships, and improve our capacity to prevent and respond to gender-based violence.” Click [here](#) to read the full strategy.

The virtual launch event highlighted key facets of the strategy, shared perspectives from U.S. government leaders across the interagency, and spotlighted the voices of those who partnered with the U.S. government throughout the development of the strategy and were instrumental in informing this important update. The Assistant to the President and White House Gender Policy Council Director [Jennifer Klein](#), U.S. Secretary of State [Antony J. Blinken](#), and USAID Administrator [Samantha Power](#) gave the opening remarks, emphasizing the violent impact technology and COVID-19 has had on women and girls globally.

Additionally, the Program Director for Global Policy and Advocacy at Futures Without Violence and co-chair of the Coalition to End Violence Against Women and Girls Globally [Leila Rasskeh Milani](#) spoke on the importance of implementing this strategy, including robust funding, staff GBV knowledge, and having training for mission officers.

UNICEF Youth Advocate [Prakriti Bhattarai](#) spoke about how GBV increases the chances women and girls commit suicide. We applaud the U.S. Department of State, the White House and USAID for consulting with youth, especially youth such as Prakriti Bhattarai who is incredibly knowledgeable about how GBV affects girls and young women.

The event was moderated by Stephanie Ogorzalek, Director for Gender-Based Violence and Cross-Cutting Issues, Secretary's Office of Global Women's Issues, U.S. Department Of State; and included important statements by: Katrina Fotovat, Senior Official, Secretary's Office of Global Women's Issues, U.S. Department Of State; Jamille Bigio, Senior Coordinator for Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment in the Office of the Administrator, USAID; Varina Winder, Senior Advisor, Secretary's Office of Global Women's Issues, U.S. Department Of State; Erika Veloza, Director of GENFAMI (Colombia); Kara Pyles, Director of Prevention and Response Initiatives, Vital Voices Global Partnership; Kalliopi Mingeiro, Chief of the Ending Violence against Women Section, UN Women.

To re-watch this event, click [here](#). To read the full strategy, click [here](#).

Reports, Articles & Resources

- Reuters [article](#) “**Nigerian Army massacred children in its war against Islamist insurgents, witnesses say.**”
- France24 [article](#) “**UN report: More than 11,000 children killed or maimed in Yemen civil war.**”
- 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.**”

Professional Opportunity

UNICEF USA initiated this Request for Proposal (RFP) process to identify 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, 2023.** To learn more and apply, click [here](#).

The Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development is seeking young people aged 18-30 for the OECD's Youth Advisory Board. In the past, the OECD Youth Advisory Board "contributed to the development of the Youth Action Plan and the OECD Vision Statement." Additionally, they were "invited to share their views on climate, digital and social mobility at three Ministerial meetings, including the Ministerial Council Meeting (MCM), the OECD's highest-level meeting. On the margins of the MCM, Youthwise brought together 70+ youth delegates from OECD countries, who collectively developed a manifesto on "The Future Youth Want." **Applications are due January 12, 2023.** To learn more about OECD's Youth Advisory Board, click [here](#).



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