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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. 121: U.S. Senate Judiciary Committee Hearing, ECW High-Level Financing Conference, & First Focus Child Immigration Webinar

February 20, 2023

Quick Summary

**The U.S. Senate Judiciary Committee held a [hearing](#) on “Protecting Our Children Online.”** The hearing focused on the role social media and the internet should have when it comes to protecting children online. The hearing had multiple witnesses, including [Kristin Bride](#), Survivor Parent, and Social Media Reform Advocate; [Emma Lembke](#), Founder of Log Off Movement; [Michelle C. DeLaune](#), President & CEO of the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children; [John Pizzuro](#), CEO of Raven; [Mitch J. Prinstien, Ph.D., ABPP](#), Chief Science Officer at the American Psychological Association; and [John Golin](#), Executive Director at Fairplay. DeLaune, speaking on the importance of end-to-end encryption [stated](#) that “we want to speak to the privacy of the children who have depicted in the [sexual abuse] imagery that continues to be circulated - these children are also entitled to privacy.” Additionally, Golin [underscored](#) that “It is clear that tech platforms will not unilaterally disarm in the race for young people’s

precious attention... We need new legislation to put the brakes on this harmful business model." To rewatch this hearing, click [here](#).

**Education Cannot Wait (ECW) High-Level Financing [Conference](#) 2023 was held last week in Geneva, Switzerland.** This convening launched ECW's new strategy and called on world leaders, businesses, foundations, and high net-worth individuals to provide at least \$1.5 billion so it can deliver on its [2023-2026 Strategic Plan](#). The event had many speakers, including [Awut Deng Acuil, M.P.](#), the Former Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of the Republic of South Sudan, and [Yasmine Sherif](#), the Director of ECW. Acuil [spoke](#) on the importance of education in emergencies, stating that "children come back with trauma and they need support. We need to create this educational environment. I call the governments and everyone present to commit more and to join the cause of ECW, especially for children in crisis-affected countries." Sherif highlighted the important role of young people [saying](#) t "you're the guiding light for the world, let's be rebellious, be strong and you will show us the way!" At the event, the U.S. Department of State and USAID [announced](#) a new contribution of \$43 million to this strategic plan. To learn more about the contributions, click [here](#). To learn more about this conference, click [here](#).

**First Focus held an event on "U.S. immigration policies & their impact on children."** This webinar highlighted the confusion around U.S. immigration policies, concerns about the rhetoric used on social media, and offered ways to support migrant children and ensure they are protected by humane policies. Currently, 1 in 4 children in the United States has an immigrant parent, and the number of children coming to our border seeking safety from persecution, trafficking, or abuse is five times what it was 15 years ago. [Miriam Abaya](#), Vice President for Immigration and Children's Rights at First Focus, spoke on the importance of giving children immigrants a welcoming and safe reception at the border, support to pursue their claim for protection in the community, and a fair opportunity to make their claim for protection. To learn more about this event and what First Focus is doing, click [here](#) and read the factsheet [here](#)

Spotlight

**Equality Now and the George Washington Law School held an [event](#) titled "20 Years is Too Long to Wait: Paving Pathways to Justice for Adolescent Sexual Violence Survivors in the Americas."** This event centered on a conversation with [Brisa de Angulo](#) and her lawyers about the recent ruling in her favor of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights in her case against the State of Bolivia. The event was an interesting look at the national, regional, and international implications of the very progressive ruling of the Inter-American Court and what the impact could be for

women and girls. The speakers explained that in addition to requiring a public acknowledgment that the State of Bolivia violated Brisa's rights and subjected her to cruel, inhumane, and degrading treatment from the judicial personnel, the ruling requires Bolivia to enact specific legal changes so that:

- The Penal Code specifically acknowledges incestuous sexual violence as a separate offense.
- The crime of *estupro*, which the Court finds to be incompatible with the American Convention, instead of standing as a separate category of a sexual offense against adolescents aged 14-18, is simply defined as rape.
- Lack of consent becomes the central pillar and defining factor for sexual violence crimes.
- They eliminate any other practice that prevents access to justice, such as the statute of limitations against boys, girls, and adolescents.

Additionally, the ruling required Bolivia to improve implementation and prevention through new or adapted protocols and training, including:

- A protocol for proper investigation and procedures during the criminal process for cases of child and adolescent victims of sexual violence,
- A protocol on a comprehensive approach and medical-legal evaluation for cases of child and adolescent victims of sexual violence,
- A protocol on comprehensive care for child and adolescent victims of sexual violence
- Training for justice system personnel, including forensic medical examiners
- An awareness-raising and sensitization campaign aimed at the general population of Bolivia in general, aimed at confronting the sociocultural patterns that normalize or trivialize incest and give tools to minors for identifying and reporting any sexual crime.

This case has a regional impact. As speakers explained the case was brought against governments instead of individual people, which makes it far-reaching and allows advocates in other countries in the jurisdiction to “use the legal principles and arguments in the ruling to push their own governments to make needed changes in laws and practices.” Additionally, the court makes references to past cases in Europe and Asia, which opens up opportunities for this decision to have effects globally.

To learn more about this event, click [here](#).

Call for Submissions

**USAID Higher Education Learning Network (HELN) is seeking submissions for its “Higher Education #FailFest for Online Learning: Collaborating, Learning, and Adapting.”** This #FailFest is “designed to allow members of the HELN to share their successes and failures in employability programs and practices, what they have learned from the experience, and what lessons they will take with them into the future.” They are seeking individuals to present a success or failure experience during the event on April 25, 2023. **Submissions are due March 4, 2023.** The submission form can be found [here](#).

#### Events

- Women, Peace & Security and Humanitarian Action [webinar](#) **“Thematic Knowledge Sessions - Engaging With and Supporting Non-Traditional Humanitarian Actors in Conflict and Crisis Settings.”** February 21, 2023, at 9 am ET.
- OECD [webinar](#) **“Ask an expert: What are the consequences of child ill-treatment and how can education help?”** February 22, 2023 at 10 am ET.
- The Global Boyhood Initiative [webinar](#) **“Boys & Child, Early, and Forced Marriages and Unions.”** February 22, 2023 at 10 am ET.
- VVOB, The Lego Foundation, the World Bank Group, CGD, & the Education Finance Network [in-person event](#) **“How to address the global learning crisis through effective teacher professional development.”** February 23, 2023, in Washington, D.C.
- Health Partners on IPV & School-Based Health Alliance [webinar](#) **“Lessons Learned in School-Based Health Center Adolescent Relationship Abuse Prevention.”** February 28, 2023, at 2 pm ET.
- ECDAN, UNICEF, & UNESCO [webinar](#) **“Global advocacy, local action: Harnessing the power of advocacy to advance progress towards SDG 4.2 in 2023.”** March 2, 2023 at 8:30 am ET.
- The Young Professionals in Foreign Policy Tokyo, Research Centre for Sustainable Peace, the Graduate Program on Human Security, & the University of Tokyo [conference](#) **“2023 International Conference on Human Rights: Youth in Asia.”** March 25-26, 2023.
- White House & U.S. Department of State [event](#) **“Summit for Democracy 2023.”** March 29-30, 2023.
- 2023 Zero to Three: National Center for Infants, Toddlers, and Families [event](#) **“Strolling Thunder 2023.”** June 23, 2023.

#### Reports, Articles & Resources

- Nurturing Care [guide](#) **“Nurturing Care Practice Guide: Strengthening nurturing care through health and nutrition services.”**

- Washington Post [article](#) “Teen girls ‘engulfed’ in violence and trauma, CDC finds.”
- NBC News [report](#) “Over 10,000 children in Madagascar are mining mica for everyday American products (Part 1)”
- UNICEF [press release](#) “One week from devastating earthquakes, millions of children in need of urgent humanitarian assistance.”
- PLAN International [op-ed](#) “Governments must prioritize education in emergencies.”
- Human Rights Watch [article](#) “South Sudan Expands Access to Free Education: Millions of Children May Benefit.”
- CGD [blog post](#) “US Global Women’s Economic Security Strategy: Jumpstarting Implementation on Care in 2023.”
- Human Rights Watch [article](#) “Some Governments, Companies Take Steps to Protect Children: Privacy Secured for Millions of Children Learning Online Worldwide.”

## Professional Opportunities

**Children in All Policies 2030 (CAP-2030)** is [seeking](#) youth from ages 13-18 for its **Youth Advisory Board**. Selected members will communicate their views on the questions and issues raised, work as a team to reach out to gather other youth voices and opinions beyond those represented in the YAB, and more. **Applications are due March 3, 2023**. You can find more information and the application [here](#).



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