
The Weekly Pulse

NEWS FROM ORGANIZATIONS AND COALITIONS IN GLOBAL CHILD ADVOCACY



Vol. 128: GWI WPS White Paper, DRI NYT Letter to the Editor & The Global Boyhood Initiative and Equimundo event.

April 10, 2023

Quick Summary

The Georgetown Institute for Women, Peace, and Security (GIWPS) published a [white paper](#) to “reflect on the urgency of the education crisis and highlight the need to coordinate and scale up efforts to ensure a future for Afghan girls’ education.” Afghan experts, international partners, diplomats, and leading policymakers identified the following calls to action for the international community:

1. **Pursue the restoration of formal education** by pressuring the Taliban through measures like visa restrictions.
2. **Emphasize that girls’ education is an integral component of Islam** in ongoing dialogues with Taliban officials. Regional and Muslim-majority countries should use their meetings with Taliban officials to call for the reversal of

anti-women policies that are contrary to Islam.

3. **Support alternative educational models**, including online and offline learning systems, to reach a wider range of Afghan students until formal education is restored.
4. **Invest in Afghan-led educational initiatives** and fund local organizations that are providing educational services to Afghan women and girls because of the ban on formal education.
5. **Facilitate collaboration among international organizations, neighboring countries, and universities** to help Afghan girls access international educational opportunities, regardless of immigration status.
6. **Collect and analyze data** to identify limitations and trends in pathways to education, assess program quality, and monitor the effectiveness of interventions.
7. **Connect Afghan women to donors** through private sector outreach and existing partnerships to spotlight Afghan-led educational solutions, reinvigorate donors' commitment to Afghan women and girls, and combat growing donor apathy.
8. **Integrate counseling as a component of any educational programming** to address the widespread mental health crisis.

To learn more and to read the white paper, click [here](#).

Disability Rights International (DRI) [sent](#) a letter to the New York Times Editor to “Stop Abduction of Ukrainian Children” that was published in [response](#) to the NYT article “Russia Signals Intention to Deport More Children.” The letter, sent by DRI [President](#) Laurie Ahem, highlights the fact that “Many of the teens and toddlers abducted by Russia from Ukraine have been taken from orphanages, but are not orphans at all. They have parents and extended families. Most end up in these custodial settings because families lack the support to take care of a child born with a disability. Or, mired in poverty, they wish for a better life for them in an orphanage.” The letter calls for “governments, donors and international aid agencies should shift funds to support families.” To learn more, click [here](#).

The Washington Post [published](#) an article that highlights the “Biden administration warn[ing] of ‘damaging’ effects from GOP budget plans”, which specifically points out the effects of the GOP budget plans on children and youth. Rep. Rosa L. DeLauro (CT-D), who is on the House Appropriations Committee, stated that “I believe that most of my Republican colleagues have no idea of the depth and the level of the cuts we’re talking about...More important than the cuts is the consequences in terms of children and families and seniors, national security and veterans.” The GOP

lawmakers plan to cut \$130 billion from federal agencies and programs in the 2024 fiscal year. To read the article, click [here](#).

Spotlight

The Global Boyhood Initiative and Equimundo held a webinar on “Boys & Education: What does gender-transformative education look like?” Attendees of this event heard from [Gary Barker](#), CEO and President of Equimundo; [Lucina Di Meco](#), Vice President, Girls’ Education, and Gender Equality at Room to Read; [Matthias Eck](#), Programme Specialist, Section of Education for Inclusion and Gender Equality at UNESCO; [Antara Ganguli](#), Director at UNGEI Secretariat at UN Girls' Education Initiative (UNGEI); [Laura Gregory](#), Senior Education Specialist at the World Bank; and [Giovanna Lauro](#), Deputy CEO at Equimundo.

This event focused on understanding what gender-transformative education is and what it looks like. The UN explains that “Gender Transformative Education seeks to utilize all parts of an education system to transform stereotypes, attitudes, norms, and practices by challenging power relations, rethinking gender norms and binaries, and raising critical consciousness about the root causes of inequality and systems of oppression.” This is critical to understanding how it promotes gender equality and equitable educational opportunities to help all students learn and thrive.

Giovanna Lauro emphasized the importance of programs that focus on gender equality for boys and noted that none prevent child marriage or support child grooms. Equimundo, the UNFPA, and the Spotlight Initiative released a [report](#) on “Boyhood and Child, Early, and Forces Marriages and Unions: An Evidence Review.” The purpose of the paper was to “lay out the case for including boys in efforts to promote gender equality and prevent child marriage. It also presents a review of existing interventions, analyzing strengths and gaps, to provide guidance for practitioners who intend to work at the intersection of boyhood programming and child marriage prevention and response.” This includes the lack of gender-transformative education.

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

Events

- USAID Leading Through Learning Global Platform [webinar](#) “**Measuring School Safety and Community Well-being.**” April 13, 2023, at 8 am ET.
- Gavi and the Spain Ministry of Foreign Affairs [summit](#) “**Raising Generation Immunity: Global Vaccine Impact Conference.**” June 13-14, 2023, in Madrid Spain.

- Together 2023 [conference](#) “**International Maternal Newborn Health Conference.**” May 8-11, 2023 in Cape Town, South Africa.

Reports, Articles & Resources

- Human Rights Watch [report](#) “**Brazil: Online Learning Tools Harvest Children’s Data: One State Government Removes Ad Tracking, But Others Continue.**”
- National Democratic Institute [toolkit](#) “**Training Youth Changemakers.**”
- RTI Center [website](#) “**RTI Center for Thriving Children.**”
- National Child Traumatic Stress Network, Justice Consortium, Schools Committee, and Culture Consortium [report](#) “**Education Children and Youth Against Racism.**”
- Parents.com [article](#) “**Seeing Amazing in All Children: Sesame Workshop's Autism Acceptance Month Initiative.**”
- Together for Girls [blog post](#) “**Health ministers in East, Central, and Southern Africa pass resolution to end violence against children.**”
- Human Rights Watch [report](#) “**Investigation Launches into Forcible Transfer of Children in Ukraine: Identification, Return of Children to Families Imperative.**”
- The BMJ academic [article](#) “**Optimising adolescent wellbeing in a digital age.**”
- MPDI academic [article](#) “**‘Now, She’s a Child and She Has a Child’—Experiences of Syrian Child Brides in Lebanon after Early Marriage.**”



Copyright © 2021 Tides Center, All rights reserved.