
The Weekly Pulse

NEWS FROM ORGANIZATIONS AND COALITIONS IN GLOBAL CHILD ADVOCACY



Vol. 142: Strengthening Efforts To End Violence Against Children Act (H.R. 4748), Child Labor Prevention Task Force, & U.S. Senate Appropriations Hearing.

July 24, 2023

Call to Action

GCE-US is [soliciting](#) recommendations for Bama Athreya, the Deputy Assistant Administrator for the Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment Hub and the Inclusive Development Hub in USAID's Bureau for Development, Democracy, and Innovation on crucial topics of inclusion, power shifting, and localization, emphasizing the need to actively involve young people in shaping policies and programs that affect their lives. GCE-US recently had a Spotlight Session with **Bama Athreya ([the recording can be found here](#)) discussing these topics. Please fill out the [form](#) here with DAA Athreya's questions by Tuesday, August 1, 2023.**

Quick Summary

Representatives Jim McGovern (D-MA), Maria Salazar (R-FL) and Brian Fitzpatrick (R-PA), introduced the “Strengthening Efforts To End Violence Against Children Act” (H.R. 4748). The bill seeks to enhance interagency coordination to address violence and promote the use of evidence-based strategies and information gathering capabilities. The proposed bill, aimed at updating and reinforcing existing U.S. Government initiatives to end global violence against children, has bipartisan support and aims to achieve the following objectives:

1. **Align current interventions for vulnerable children** with USAID's Advancing Protection and Care for Children in Adversity (APCCA) Strategy, as well as evidence-based interventions like the INSPIRE strategies and Violence Against Children Surveys.
2. **Elevate the USAID Special Advisor for Assistance to Orphans and Vulnerable Children**, requiring the Special Advisor to provide guidance to USAID offices, bureaus, field missions, and other U.S. government agencies to address violence against children as part of a comprehensive strategy.
3. **Update USAID reporting requirements** to identify how U.S. agencies are utilizing the INSPIRE strategies and findings from Violence Against Children and Youth Surveys, particularly in response to the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The bill has gained support from various organizations, including the American Academy of Pediatrics, ChildFund International, Futures Without Violence, Together For Girls, UNICEF, and World Vision. They stress the importance of protecting vulnerable children from violence and emphasize the need for evidence-based solutions and the timely implementation of such legislation. To read the act, click [here](#). To read the announcement, click [here](#).

Representatives Dan Kildee (D-MI) and Hillary Scholten (D-MI) launched the Child Labor Prevention Task Force in response to recent reports of a rise in companies illegally employing children in dangerous jobs, leading to serious injuries. The task force aims to address the systemic issue of child labor in the United States, particularly in industries such as automotive, processed food, and textiles, where children are illegally making products for major corporations.

The Child Labor Prevention Task Force has outlined several key actions to combat illegal child labor, including:

1. Pushing for legislation to fight illegal child labor and increase penalties for violations.
2. Engaging with congressional leadership, committee chairs, and ranking members to prioritize the urgent resolution of child labor issues.
3. Conducting oversight of federal agencies to ensure strong enforcement actions against child labor in supply chains.
4. Organizing informational events with experts and officials to educate Congress members and staff about the problem of illegal child labor.

Members of Congress, including Yadira Caraveo ([D-CO](#)), Judy Chu ([D-CA](#)), Rosa DeLauro ([D-CT](#)), Debbie Dingell ([D-MI](#)), Robert Garcia ([D-CA](#)), Seth Magaziner ([D-RI](#)), Morgan McGarvey ([D-KY](#)), Mark Pocan ([D-WI](#)), Jan Schakowsky ([D-IL](#)), Elissa Slotkin ([D-MI](#)), Haley Stevens ([D-MI](#)), Shri Thanedar ([D-MI](#)), and Dina Titus ([D-NV](#)), are joining the task force to address this pressing issue. The representatives emphasize that children should be in school and aim to take legislative and budgetary actions to protect children, enforce labor laws, and hold violators accountable for exploiting child labor. To read this announcement, click [here](#).

The U.S. Senate Committee on Appropriations held a full committee [markup](#), which included FY 2024 State and Foreign Operations Appropriations Act. The FY 2024 State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs Appropriations Act allocates \$61.608 billion in total discretionary funding for the U.S. Department of State, USAID, and other related programs. The bill aims to “strengthen America's security and competitiveness, maintain global leadership, enhance engagement in the Indo-Pacific, invest in global health security, and provide much-needed humanitarian aid. Key provisions include increasing funding for the Department of State and USAID operations, bolstering global health security initiatives, establishing an Economic Resilience Initiative, supporting the Indo-Pacific Strategy, providing humanitarian assistance, combatting the flow of fentanyl, increasing support for international organizations, addressing the climate crisis, and funding programs for combatting global hunger and enhancing U.S. food security.” Additionally, the bill supports allies, promotes international criminal justice efforts, and addresses the relocation of Afghan partners through Operation Enduring Welcome. To rewatch this hearing and learn more about FY 2024 State and Foreign Operations Appropriations Act, click [here](#).

Events

- First Focus on Children [webinar](#) “**It’s Time for Adults to Listen: A Youth-Centered, Policy-Focused Discussion on the Nation’s Youth Mental Health.**” July 25, 2023, at 1 pm ET.
- U.S. Helsinki Commission [hearing](#) “**Rescuing Ukrainian Children and Women from Russia's Aggression.**” July 26, 2023, at 10 am ET.

- Biennial International Conference on Alternative Care for Children in Asia (BICON) [conference](#) “**5th BICON Conference on Alternative Care for Children in Asia.**” September 6-7, 2023 in Kathmandu, Nepal.
- The European Scientific Association on Residential and Family Care for Children and Adolescents (EuSARF) [in-person event](#) “**Equity and Social Justice In Child, Youth And Family Welfare.**” September 12, 2023, at the University of Sussex, Brighton, England.

Reports, Articles & Resources

- Search for Common Ground Youtube [video](#) “**Central African Republic: From child soldier to radio producer.**”
- UNICEF [report](#) “**Global annual results report 2022 Goal Area 2: Every child, including adolescents, learns and acquires skills for the future.**”
- Eurochild and UNICEF [report](#) “**Children in Alternative Care in the Child Guarantee National Action Plans: A summative analysis.**”
- ISI and UNICEF [report](#) “**The Child’s Right to a Nationality and Childhood Statelessness – A Toolkit for Child Rights Actors.**”

Professional Opportunity

Georgetown University's Collaborative on Global Children's Issues seeks to [hire](#) a Program Assistant to support its cross-disciplinary research and dialogue on critical global children's challenges, focusing on children facing adversity and pathways to resilience. The role involves providing administrative, program, and communications support to two ongoing research projects: "Faith and the Family" and "The Culture of Encounter and the Global Agenda Project." Responsibilities include research, content management, outreach, planning and executing programs, and supporting finance and logistics. Desired qualifications include a bachelor's degree, familiarity with global child rights and protection, strong communication skills, time management abilities, attention to detail, and a collaborative work style. Preferred qualifications include 1 to 2 years of professional experience.” To learn more and apply, click [here](#).



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