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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. 156: New U.S. House Speaker, House Committee Hearing & New Reports.

October 30, 2023

Calls to Action

**The UN Girls' Education Initiative ([UNGEI](#)) is in the process of developing a comprehensive glossary to support Gender-Transformative Education (GTE).** This effort involves extensive consultation to ensure that the glossary reflects the collective wisdom and requirements of individuals and organizations working on GTE worldwide. They are asking Civil Society organizations, Governments, Academia, and the Private sector to fill out the survey to assist in contributing to their glossary. To fill out the survey, click [here](#).

Quick Summary

**Rep. Mike Johnson ([R-LA](#)) was elected as the Speaker of the House of Representatives.** In his inaugural address to the House, Johnson outlined his priorities, which include border security, addressing inflation, and managing conflicts in the Middle

East. Currently, the House faces a November 17 deadline to reach an agreement on government funding to avoid a shutdown. Rep. Johnson's conservative positions on issues such as abortion rights, same-sex marriage, and foreign aid to Ukraine have raised concerns among some, who view him as an ideologue less open to bipartisan cooperation.. To learn more, click [here](#).

**The bipartisan, bicameral READ Act Reauthorization ([H.R. 681/S.41](#)) has garnered substantial support, with 41 cosponsors in the House and 6 in the Senate.** This critical legislation, aimed at promoting global literacy and education, has made significant progress by being reported out of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. Thanks to partners and advocates who have been engaging key policymakers to support and pass this important bill.

Ways to get involved:

- To learn more about the READ Act Reauthorization and take action, click [here](#).
- To join the READ Act Reauthorization Taskforce, please contact Suzanne Berman ([sberman@gce-us.org](mailto:sberman@gce-us.org)) and Jennifer Rigg ([jrigg@gce-us.org](mailto:jrigg@gce-us.org)).

**UNICEF, in collaboration with Countdown to 2030 Women's, Children's and Adolescent's Health, [published](#) "Country Profiles for Early Childhood Development."** These profiles serve as a resource for consolidating data for individual countries and cross-country monitoring. Initially, 91 country profiles were unveiled in May 2018 alongside the introduction of the Nurturing Care Framework. Following this, the decision was made to expand and update the profiles to cover 138 low- and middle-income countries in 2019. In 2020, the profiles for these 138 countries were updated, and new profiles were created for 59 high-income countries, bringing the total number of profiles to 197. These profiles have been subsequently updated in 2021 to ensure their accuracy and relevance. To read the full report and individual country profiles, click [here](#).

**UNFPA-UNICEF [published](#) its annual report "2022 Global Annual Report- Reimagining Resilience: Eliminating Female Genital Mutilation in the Context of the Polycrisis."** The report addresses the impact of the ongoing polycrisis (the interaction of multiple crises at once) on gender equality and women's empowerment. A significant highlight is the launch of Phase IV (2022-2030) of the Joint Programme, which prioritizes promoting girls' agency, fostering transformative change through social movements, strengthening partnerships with women-led organizations, expanding global influence, and engaging in public-private partnerships for FGM eradication. They found that by placing a strong focus on adolescent girls' agency, voice, and leadership and enhancing collaborations with grassroots women- and youth-led organizations, the

program reinforced its commitment to advancing gender equality and building resilience against the harmful practice. To read the full report, click [here](#).

## Spotlight

**In a recent U.S. Senate Judiciary Committee [hearing](#) titled "Ensuring the Safety and Well-Being of Unaccompanied Children, Part II,"** several key officials presented their testimonies on crucial issues including civil liberties, constitutional amendments, immigration, patent issues, and trade regulations, among others. . The Judiciary Committee's jurisdiction includes oversight of the Department of Justice agencies under its jurisdiction (including the FBI and the Department of Homeland Security). In addition it also considers a variety of legislative matters, resolutions, messages, petitions, memorials, and other subjects, as specified in the Standing Rules of the Senate.

[Cardell T. Morant](#), Assistant Director of Homeland Security Investigations (HSI), spoke about HSI's role in investigating federal crimes related to human trafficking and the exploitation of unaccompanied children. He emphasized HSI's proactive approach in identifying, disrupting, and dismantling human trafficking organizations while maintaining a victim-centered focus. The distinction between human trafficking and smuggling was highlighted, with a specific focus on protecting children from exploitation, especially in cases involving child sexual abuse material. Additionally, [Seema Nanda](#), Solicitor of Labor at the U.S. Department of Labor, addressed the ongoing problem of child labor exploitation in the United States. She outlined the Department's commitment to enforcing federal child labor laws, regardless of immigration status, and reported a significant increase in child labor violations. Nanda also discussed the Department's efforts to educate young people, parents, teachers, and employers about child labor laws and called for congressional support to enhance enforcement.

[Robin Dunn Marcos](#), the Director of the Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR) under the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), presented an overview of the Unaccompanied Children (UC) Program. This program ensures the well-being of unaccompanied children who arrive in the United States through various support programs. Marcos emphasized the ORR's commitment to comprehensive vetting of sponsors, post-release services, and collaboration with agencies like the Department of Labor to combat child labor exploitation. She stressed the importance of continued congressional funding for these services.

Lastly, [Joseph Salazar](#), Office Director of the Office of Central American Affairs, focused on the challenges that drive migration from northern Central America. He discussed the Biden-Harris Administration's 2021 Strategy to Address the Root Causes of Irregular

Migration from Central America, which aims to create economic opportunities and promote governance, human rights, and security. Salazar highlighted the U.S.'s collaboration with various stakeholders, support for human rights defenders, and efforts to promote accountability for corrupt actors. He also discussed the "Central America Forward" initiative, which has attracted investments to create jobs and address key issues in the region.

All the officials underscored the importance of collaboration between government agencies and various partners to ensure the safety and well-being of unaccompanied children and combat human trafficking and child labor exploitation effectively. To read and rewatch the full hearing, click [here](#).

#### Events

- Georgetown Institute for Women, Peace, & Security [event](#) **"Engaging Men as Allies in Women, Peace and Security."** October 30, 2023, at 1:15 pm ET.
- USIP [virtual event](#) **"Missing Peace Global Symposium on Conflict-Related Sexual Violence: Taking Action Together with Survivors, Policymakers, Practitioners and Scholars."** November 1, 2023, at 11:30 am ET.
- USAID and YouthPower2 [webinar](#) **"Breaking the Stigma of Adolescent Mental Health in Bangladesh."** November 3, 2023, at 9 am ET.
- USAID and YouthPower2 [webinar](#) **"Bridging the Educational Gap for People Living with Disabilities and HIV."** November 13, 2023, at 9 am ET.

#### Reports, Articles & Resources

- UNFPA [report](#) **"Factors associated with the perception of ease and intention to practice female genital mutilation on daughters: A cross-sectional study of cross-border communities in Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, and Uganda."**
- UNICEF [report](#) **"Young people's health and well-being in the Middle East and North Africa."**
- Center for Global Development [call-to-action](#) **"A Call to Action to End Childhood Lead Poisoning Worldwide: A Neglected, Top-Tier Development Challenge."**
- Education Outcomes Fund [concept paper](#) **"Outcomes-Based Finance & Early Childhood Care and Education."**
- Inclusive Development Partners [paper](#) **"Disability Inclusive Pre-Primary Education White Paper."**
- Sesame Workshop [report](#) **"Effects of Remote Early Childhood Education: A study conducted with families in hard-to-access settings in Lebanon."**

#### Professional Opportunity

**Helen Keller International is currently seeking to hire an [Advocacy Officer](#).** They will be responsible for project management, the establishment of tools and systems aimed at fostering effective and efficient advocacy efforts. Additionally, they will collaborate with and offer support to country program offices in the development and execution of advocacy work plans. This role also entails the drafting of content for advocacy communications and donor reports, as well as the identification and engagement of key policymakers and coalition partners. The ideal candidate for this position should have a proactive mindset and be enthusiastic about contributing to the development of a new advocacy team and strategy. To learn more and apply, click [here](#).



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