
The Weekly Pulse

NEWS FROM ORGANIZATIONS AND COALITIONS IN GLOBAL CHILD ADVOCACY



Vol. 166: First Focus Legislative Scorecard, Lead Poisoning, & U.S. Department of Labor Award.

January 22, 2024

Quick Summary

Highlighted last week, the Children's Policy and Funding Initiative at Tides is collecting signatures for a joint memorandum to the White House. The memorandum calls on the White House to make children and youth a higher and more consistent priority in US policy, programming, and funding across all US agencies. The memorandum provides specific recommendations for systemic actions that elevate young people as a US priority, highlights the importance of children and youth well-being for the achievement of many US government goals, and summarizes the impact of recent global hardships and the need to address their consequences to ensure a better future for all of us. For more information and to sign onto the memorandum, contact: Alex Arriaga at marriaga@tidescenter.org.

The U.S. Department of Labor's Office of Child Labor, Forced Labor, and Human Trafficking is [inviting](#) nominations for the annual Iqbal Masih Award. The non-monetary award, presented by the U.S. Secretary of Labor, recognizes individuals, organizations, or national governments that are making exceptional contributions to reducing the worst forms of child labor. Recipients are acknowledged for their extraordinary efforts, positive international impact, and inspiration for others, particularly young individuals, to combat child labor, and their role in fostering constructive change amid challenging circumstances or personal sacrifice. The Department reviews new nominations and those made in the past five years (2019-2023), as well as allows the submission of additional or updated information for past nominations. **Nominations are due March 1, 2024.** To nominate and learn more, click [here](#).

Pure Earth highlighted USAID's groundbreaking statement, which urged global action to reduce lead poisoning. USAID Administrator Samantha Power's remarks highlight the unique opportunity to combat this "invisible killer" with a relatively small amount of funding. The statement includes a commitment to fund initiatives in India, South Africa, and Bangladesh. Having actively collaborated with USAID on this matter for several months, Pure Earth contributed to the crafting of the call to action. USAID has [endorsed](#) Pure Earth's interventions as a "proven playbook," emphasizing the alignment with the Global Lead Program outlined on Pure Earth's website. The recognition of lead poisoning as a significant and addressable global development issue by USAID is deemed crucial by Pure Earth. Click [here](#) to read the full statement and to learn more.

Spotlight

First Focus Campaign for Children [published](#) its annual Legislative Scorecard, which reflects the actions of lawmakers during the first session of the 118th Congress (January to December 2023). In this period, First Focus stated that children around the world transitioned from a favorable position to a crisis. The previous Congress, spanning January 2021 to January 2023, they had witnessed significant investments in children, responding to the challenges posed by the coronavirus pandemic and economic hardship. These investments covered family economics, education, early childhood, child care, family medical leave, child nutrition, and health care, reaching a record high of 11.89% in federal spending on children in the US and internationally in FY 2021.

However, First Focus stated that when the 118th Congress began, lawmakers were faced with a crucial decision: either continue the progress made for children or risk

sending them back into crisis, marked by increasing poverty, hunger, homelessness, lack of health insurance, and other challenges. Unfortunately, many lawmakers chose the latter. The Legislative Scorecard identifies and recognizes Champions and Defenders in the 118th Congress who actively prioritized children in legislative efforts. These individuals are acknowledged for their commitment to improving the lives of children in the US and around the world by supporting, advocating for, and sponsoring legislation, while also opposing actions that could harm children.

To read the Legislative Scorecard, click [here](#).

Events

- USAID & YouthPower2 symposium [event](#) **“Positive Youth Development Symposium: Introductory Remarks and Youth-led Session on Mentorship and Skill-building.”** January 23, 2024 from 1:30-3pm ET.
- USAID & YouthPower2 symposium [event](#) **“Positive Youth Development Symposium: Accelerating Holistic Youth Programming.”** January 24, 2024 at 9:15am ET.
- Georgetown University Collaborative on Global Children’s Issues [webinar](#) **“The Catholic Response to Unaccompanied and Separated Children in the Context of Migration.”** January 24, 2024 at 12pm ET.
- Futures Without Violence [webinar](#) **“Supporting Survivors of Trafficking with Intellectual Disabilities: Prevention and Response Through Multi-Systems Collaboration.”** January 25, 2024 at 2pm ET.
- The International Society for the Prevention of Child Abuse & Neglect (ISPCAN) virtual [event](#) **“Publishing in the ISPCAN Child Protection and Practice Journal.”** January 29, 2024, at 10 am ET.
- Laureates and Leaders for Children [summit](#) **“4th Laureates and Leaders for Children Summit: Development and Peace.”** March 11-12, 2024.
- Keeping Children Safe hybrid [summit](#) **“Organizational Child Protection Summit 2024: Childhoods without violence in the Americas.”** April 17-18, 2024.

Reports, Articles & Resources

- A Generation at Stake resource [page](#) **“Empowering Girls.”**
- The Washington Post [Op-ed](#) **“Orphanages are no place for children.”**
- The World Economic Forum [article](#) **“Climate Crisis May Cause 14.5 Million Deaths by 2050.”**
- Borgen Magazine & Global Campaign for Education - US [article](#) **“Girl Power: Q&A with Global Campaign for Education – US.”**

- Global Child & Brave Movement [report](#) “**Justice Unleashed: Ending Limitations, Protecting Children.**”
- Human Rights Watch [article](#) “**Getting All the World’s Children Back to School.**”



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