The Weekly Pulse

NEWS FROM ORGANIZATIONS AND COALITIONS IN GLOBAL CHILD ADVOCACY

Vol. 172: Y25 Gender Community SFOPS Request, PEPFAR, & UNICEF Event

March 4, 2024

Call to Action

The gender community focusing internationally is seeking support for their FY25 Gender Community SFOPS [Request,](#) summarized in a joint letter spearheaded by Futures Without Violence. Among the requests to Appropriators:

- Fully fund the International Affairs Budget at **$70.9 billion**.
- No less than **$3.45 billion** for global gender equality, per the FY 25 President's Budget Request.
- No less than **$410,000,000** to support efforts to prevent and respond to GBV worldwide, including programs that address new GBV challenges such as climate change, technology-facilitated GBV online violence, and support capacity and coordination for GBV prevention, mitigation, and response across sectors.
- Additional budget requests that specifically address the needs of children.

To read the letter, click here. Organizations are encouraged to endorse the letter by Wednesday, March 6th, by completing the form found here.

Quick Summary

The U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR), led by the U.S. Department of State Bureau of Global Health Security and Diplomacy, has initiated a $20 million program aimed at addressing HIV/AIDS among youth globally. This initiative focuses on innovation and youth leadership to improve HIV prevention, case finding, and treatment outcomes in PEPFAR-supported countries. Youth, particularly in Africa, face a significant HIV/AIDS threat, with adolescent girls and young women bearing a disproportionate burden of new infections. The initiative targets this demographic, seeking to empower them as agents of change in the fight against HIV/AIDS. Through increased involvement of youth-led organizations and initiatives, the initiative aims to promote collaboration and progress toward the goal of ending HIV/AIDS as a public health threat by 2030. The initiative's implementation depends on fund availability and congressional notification procedures. Nonetheless, it represents a step forward in the collective effort to combat HIV/AIDS and engage the next generation in addressing global health challenges. To read the press release, click here.

Following the U.S. Senate Judiciary Hearing on online child safety, the Kids Online Safety Act (KOSA) (S. 1409) has undergone significant updates to incorporate a broader range of stakeholder voices. Led by Senators Richard Blumenthal (D-CT) and Marsha Blackburn (R-TN), the updated version of KOSA now boasts bipartisan support from 62 co-sponsors in the Senate, including Majority Leader Senator Schumer (D-NY), with backing from organizations like GLAAD and HRC. Key amendments to the bill include modifications to the "duty of care" provision, which holds companies accountable for preventing harm to children through their online platform's design features. Additionally, platforms will be mandated to implement safeguards for children's data protection, provide parents with safety tools, and restrict features that promote excessive social media usage. The revised KOSA aims to shield children from various online threats, including sexual exploitation and abuse, by prioritizing user safety as the default setting on platforms. Supporters, including parents and survivor groups, emphasize the importance of KOSA in creating a safer online environment for children. To read more from organizations and survivors, click here.

The End Violence Investors Forum, launched by Ignite Philanthropy to enhance collaboration among donors addressing Violence Against Children (VAC), has concluded with the publication of its external evaluation. The evaluation explored

achievements, challenges, and future directions, revealing successes such as increased investments in VAC and informed strategies, alongside challenges like passive membership and misalignment with donor expectations. Despite facing internal and external obstacles, the Forum fostered valuable relationships and knowledge exchange among donors, highlighting the ongoing need for initiatives supporting the VAC sector. Ignites [new strategy](#) of focusing on constructive disruption and purposeful inclusion, intends to challenge power dynamics and strengthen relationships within the VAC grant-making space. Co-design processes and strategic fundraising approaches have also emerged as crucial components for future initiatives, ensuring commitment, clarity, and distinct branding within the sector. To read the full external evaluation, [click here](#).

Spotlight

UNICEF, The Prevention Collaborative, and Equimundo collaborated on an [event](#) that launched evidence on how innovative parenting programs can reduce violence against children and women. The event convened leading experts and practitioners to address the pressing issue of family violence. Through a series of [evidence briefs](#), the event underscored the importance for parenting programs to adopt a holistic approach, targeting both violence against children and women concurrently. Experts in child welfare and gender equality highlighted the potential of gender-sensitive parenting interventions. The event called for action, urging practitioners and policymakers to integrate violence prevention and gender equality into existing parenting initiatives. With a focus on community engagement, program adaptation, and rigorous evaluation, the event set an agenda for reshaping family dynamics towards equity and nonviolence.

The evidence briefs outlined a practical roadmap for practitioners, emphasizing stakeholder buy-in and community consultation. By addressing shared risk factors rooted in gender inequality, the briefs emphasized the role of gender-transformative approaches in nurturing violence-free environments. The event marked a significant moment in the global movement to end violence against children and women, representing progress toward safer and more equitable family environments for future generations to come.

To view the webinar launch event, [click here](#).

Events
- Devex [webinar](#) "**Inside Chinese Aid.**" March 4, 2024, at 10 am ET.
- The Atlantic Council [hybrid event](#) "**Women, Peace, and Security in a shifting security landscape.**" March 4, 2024, at 10:30 am ET.

- Pure Earth [webinar](#) "**Hidden Hazards: Protecting Maternal Health from Toxic Chemical Pollution.**" March 5, 2024 at 9 am ET.
- UN Human Rights Council [convening](#) "**2024 edition of UN Human Rights Council's Annual Day on the Rights of the Child (ADRC).**" March 14, 2024, at 5 am ET.
- i-ACCESS MyRights project and the Justice with Children Global Initiative [webinar](#) "**Technology and AI in Child Justice Systems – The implications for children's human rights – Policy Brief launch and presentation of the i-ACCESS My Rights project.**" March 14, 2024, at 8 am ET.
- 68th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW68) and Ukraine Advocacy Week [event](#) by Women's Refugee Commission and IASC Gender Reference Group (GRG) "**Women and Girl Leaders in Dialogue – Building Equal Partnerships with Local Women-Led Organizations in Crisis Response.**" March 15, 2024 at 11:15 am ET.
- The Alliance for Child Protection in Humanitarian Action [in-person meeting](#) "**2024 Annual Meeting for Child Protection in Humanitarian Action.**" June 4-6, 2024.
- CELSIS and the University of Strathclyde Glasglow [event](#) "**Caring for Children Moving Alone: Protecting Unaccompanied and Separated Children.**" December 31, 2024.

Reports, Articles & Resources
- Together for Girls [blog post](#) "**Making it clear: how is money spent to address child sexual abuse?**"
- UNESCO Institute for Statistics and the Global Education Monitoring Report Team [report](#) "**SDG 4 scorecard progress report on national benchmarks: focus on teachers.**"
- The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Children's Bureau [report](#) "**Prevention Resource Guide 2023/2024.**"
- World Health Organization (WHO) [resource](#) "**Global Accelerated Action for the Health of Adolescents.**"
- Suojellaan Lapsia Protect Children [report](#) "**Tech Platforms Used by Online Child Sexual Abuse Offenders.**"
- USAID YouthPower2 [resource](#) "**How to Write an Award-Winning Grant Proposal that Secures Funding (Templates & Video Guide).**"