
The Weekly Pulse

NEWS FROM ORGANIZATIONS AND COALITIONS IN GLOBAL CHILD ADVOCACY



Vol. 173: #InspireInclusion, 2KNOW Project, Strategy for the Rights of the Child, and Women, Business and the Law.

March 11, 2024

Call to Action

Several coalitions and organizations are spearheading letters to Congress to encourage funding for children and youth globally. As the various letters are shared with the community, this newsletter highlights efforts by different networks to support funding that prioritizes the needs of children and youth globally.

The Ending Violence Against Children ([EVAC](#)) Taskforce is seeking organizational support to ask Congress to fund important programs in the FY25 Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies, and in the FY25 SFOPS Appropriations bills. The EVAC requests include:

FY25 SFOPS [request](#) to Appropriators:

- \$35 million for the Vulnerable Children account, which supports USAID's Children in Adversity office to coordinate assistance to orphans and other vulnerable children.
- \$15 million for the Department of State Child Protection Compact (CPC) Partnership, which is a multi-year commitment between the State Department's Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons (JTIP) and partner governments.
- \$30 million for the implementation of a coordinated and comprehensive effort to end child-early and forced marriage.

FY25 Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies [request](#) to Appropriators:

- \$10 million to support Violence Against Children and Youth Surveys (VACS).
- At least \$118 million for the Bureau of International Labor Affairs (ILAB) that works to end exploitative child labor.

Organizations are encouraged to sign on no later than COB March 12th. To sign onto the FY25 SFOPS Request letter, [click here](#). To sign onto the FY25 Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies Request letter, [click here](#).

Quick Summary

Marking [International Women's Day](#), Lean In Girls introduced resources aimed at [#InspiringInclusion](#) for all girls and fostering a leadership mindset in a world that often undermines their potential. The program equips girls with resilience, self-assurance, and inclusivity skills, enabling them to push back against bias and envision themselves as leaders. While individual commitment to valuing and seeking inclusion of women and girls is crucial, organizations can continuously [#InspireInclusion](#) through actions like economic empowerment, diverse talent development, and promoting access to education and healthcare. It's imperative to empower girls to lead boldly, recognizing their potential in a world that often undermines their value. To gain access to the resources, [click here](#).

The [Council of Europe](#) recently unveiled its inaugural implementation report for the [Strategy for the Rights of the Child](#), covering activities from the adoption of the Strategy through October 2023. Launched in April 2022, the Strategy outlines six main Strategic Objectives aimed at securing freedom from violence, equal opportunities, access to technology, child-friendly justice, child participation, and protection in crisis situations. The report shines a light on the progress achieved across these objectives

through active engagement with member states and civil society. While strides have been made in child participation, child-friendly justice, and technology use, we face challenges in addressing various forms of violence, providing comprehensive sexuality education, and accommodating children with disabilities, all of which demand more attention. Key priorities moving forward include bolstering digital access and ensuring participation from diverse backgrounds. To read the report, [click here](#).

The [2KNOW project](#), funded by the EU and spearheaded by Protect Children in collaboration with the University of Eastern Finland and the Council of the Baltic Sea States, has released a pivotal report entitled "Knowledge to Prevent Online Sexual Violence Against Children: Insights from a Survey of Child Sexual Abuse Material Offenders." This report delves into the motivations and behaviors of individuals involved in online sexual abuse against children, aiming to provide insights for effective prevention strategies. The findings emphasize the importance of targeted interventions and measures to address these crimes. The report argues that the project seeks to inform policymakers, tech companies, and society about the most effective ways to protect children online by identifying offender perspectives. Key findings include motivations behind CSAM use, potential links between adult pornography consumption and CSAM, victim demographics, the impact of childhood experiences, criminal histories, and the potential for intervention and rehabilitation. These insights highlight the necessity for global efforts to safeguard children from online sexual violence. To read the preliminary findings report, [click here](#).

The latest [Women, Business, and the Law](#) report by the World Bank Group sheds light on significant disparities in the global gender gap for women in the workforce, including information on the impact on children. When taking into account legal discrepancies related to violence and childcare availability, women globally enjoy fewer than two-thirds of the rights afforded to men. The report emphasizes the crucial link between women's workforce participation and broader prosperity for families and communities. In 2023, governments made strides in equal-opportunity reforms, but the need to improve childcare access and women's safety persists. Women's safety scores were notably low, with barely a third of the needed legal protections against violence, harassment, and child marriage. While access to childcare remains limited, with only half of economies offering financial support and quality standards. Despite efforts, no country offers equal opportunity for women, including the wealthiest economies. The report underscores the need for stronger enforcement mechanisms and support systems to bridge the gap between legal reforms and actual outcomes for women and their families. To read the full report, [click here](#).

Spotlight

March marks [National Nutrition Month](#), a collaborative effort by the [Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics](#) and [1,000 Days](#) to spotlight the crucial role of nutrition in the first 1,000 days of a child's life. Nutrition, along with breastfeeding support and nurturing care, forms a foundational aspect of thriving families. Backed by decades of research, it's clear that nutrition significantly shapes a child's development and contributes to a nation's well-being.

Join 1,000 Days throughout March for the #March4Nutrition campaign, fostering conversations across Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn, and Twitter. Each week focuses on a different theme, exploring the transformative power of nutrition for shaping healthier futures. Week 1 highlights the importance of access to quality nutrition services before, during, and after pregnancy. Week 2 explores the intersection of women's nutrition and gender equity, envisioning nutrition as a fundamental aspect of achieving gender parity. Week 3 examines nutrition and food security, advocating for safe, affordable, and nutritious food for all families. Finally, Week 4 invites reflection on actions to support mothers, babies, and families worldwide in accessing nutritious food.

The goal of #March4Nutrition is the recognition of the impact of the first 1,000 days. From promoting healthy birth weights to supporting cognitive development, nutrition lays the foundation for a lifetime of well-being. Please consider using the social media toolkit below to help jumpstart and inspire your online engagement!

To get the social media toolkit, [click here](#).

To read more about National Nutrition Month, [click here](#).

Events

- GIRL Center, Population Council, UNICEF, CASH & IPV Research Collaborative [in-person event](#) “**Power, Practice, and Potential: Social Protection and Adolescent Girls.**” March 12, 2024, at 9 am ET.
- Girls Not Brides, Pan-African Alliance to End Child Marriage, Hunger Project, Human Rights Watch [in-person event](#) “**Addressing Poverty and Access to Education to End Child Marriage.**” March 12th, 2024 at 4:30 pm 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.
- UNICEF [webinar](#) “**Global Launch: Improving Maternal Nutrition Acceleration Plan.**” March 14, 2024, at 9 am - 10 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.
- EMPOWER [in-person event](#) “**Amplify Her: Centering Girls' Voices in Decision-Making.**” March 19, 2024, at 10:30 am - 12 pm ET
- EuroChild, Voice Project [hybrid event](#) “**VOICE Report Launch.**” April 8, 2024, at 3 am to 11:30 am ET.
- The Sexual Violence Research Initiative (SVRI) [in-person event](#), “**SVRI Forum 2024.**” October 21 - 25, 2024.

Reports, Articles & Resources

- Global Partnership Education [blog post](#) “**Financing refugee inclusion in national education systems: What we don’t know.**”
- First Focus on Children [press release](#) “**WIC rescue will protect 2 million children.**”
- United Nations Girls Education Initiative [blog post](#) “**YOUNG MOTHERS NEED DIGNITY AND AGENCY: How Livelihood Bootcamps are Driving Change in East Africa.**”
- 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.**”



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