
The Weekly Pulse

NEWS FROM ORGANIZATIONS AND COALITIONS IN GLOBAL CHILD ADVOCACY



Vol. 175: International Women’s Day, Child Rights and Business in the Digital Environment, ‘Transforming Tomorrow’, and European Committee of Social Rights.

March 25th, 2024

Quick Summary

Representatives Debbie Dingell ([MI-06](#)), Jill Tokuda ([HI-02](#)), and Andrea Salinas ([OR-06](#)) marked International Women's Day by introducing a Resolution condemning sexual violence against women and girls globally, particularly in conflict zones where it is wielded as a weapon of war. Dingell emphasized the urgency of addressing this pervasive issue, stressing the need for unequivocal condemnation and active protection of survivors. Tokuda echoed these sentiments, calling the ongoing targeting of women in conflict zones unconscionable and urging a renewed commitment to ending gender-based violence. At the same time, Salinas underscored the importance of amplifying survivor voices and combating violence in all its forms. Their resolution reinforced the need to address the plight of women and girls worldwide, especially in times of conflict, while renewing the commitment to upholding their rights and dignity. **To read the resolution, [click here.](#)**

[UNICEF](#) and the International Telecommunications Union (ITU) released an e-learning course for industry professionals titled "Child Rights and Business in the Digital Environment: Industry Training." With an estimated one in three internet users globally being children, the digital landscape presents opportunities and risks for this demographic. The series' four self-paced modules emphasize the pivotal role of businesses in ensuring a safe and positive online environment for children, urging them to prioritize children's rights and wellbeing. The course equips participants with essential frameworks to understand their responsibilities, identify potential risks for children, tackle issues such as online child sexual exploitation, and how best to leverage business strategies. The modules are designed for businesses to explore avenues for integrating child rights into their digital policies and practices, thus fostering a safer and more supportive online space for children globally. **To view the course, [click here](#).**

The [International Rescue Committee](#) (IRC) and [Sesame Workshop](#) jointly released the "Transforming Tomorrow: Innovative Solutions for Children in Crisis" report, advocating for global action in response to the crises affecting millions of children, particularly in regions like the Middle East and North Africa (MENA). Drawing on the success of the [Ahlan Simsim initiative](#), the report emphasizes the importance of flexible, localized approaches and innovative partnerships to reshape systems for better-serving children and caregivers. With over 460 million children in crisis-affected areas worldwide, the report outlines practical strategies for long-term transformational change, urging funding prioritization, interdisciplinary decision-making forums, and investment in evidence generation to inform policy and practice. Embracing failure as a learning opportunity, stakeholders are encouraged to adopt outcomes-driven approaches to provide comprehensive support tailored to the diverse needs of children and caregivers in crises. **To read the full report, [click here](#).**

Spotlight

The [European Committee of Social Rights](#) (ECSR) published its Conclusions 2023 findings concerning Children, Families, and Migrants. The findings consist of the adoption of 799 conclusions from the ECSR, revealing where progress was made and work is still needed. Notably, the Committee highlighted substantial shortcomings, including inadequate monitoring of accommodation facilities for migrant children and persistently high rates of child poverty seen across several countries. This signals an urgent need for improvements in social welfare policies and practices.

Among other notable observations are the identified gaps in safeguarding children's rights, particularly concerning child labor practices and ensuring digital safety. Instances of inadequate regulations regarding the employment of minors, and shortcomings in addressing different forms of online exploitation highlight areas where policy interventions may be warranted. Similarly, issues surrounding the protection of women's rights during maternity leave and access to family benefits revealed discrepancies within legal frameworks and social support systems across Europe.

Despite recognizing positive strides in areas such as domestic violence prevention and interagency collaboration within social services, the Conclusions emphasized the challenges still facing European states. Other issues such as the gender pay gap, discrimination in healthcare, and the provision of inclusive education for children with intellectual disabilities also continue to demand urgent attention and concerted efforts for improvement. The ECSR's call for continued alignment with the European Social Charter underscores its shared commitment to upholding social rights for all citizens, reinforcing the ongoing commitment to fostering a more equitable and inclusive society.

To read the full findings, [click here](#).

To read the highlights of the conclusions, [click here](#).

Events

- The Global Women's Institute [webinar](#) “**Working to End Sexual Exploitation and Abuse and The Economic Exclusion of Women and Girls.**” March 27th, 2024. 8 am to 9 am ET.
- EuroChild, Voice Project [hybrid event](#) “**VOICE Report Launch.**” April 8, 2024, at 3 am to 11:30 am ET.
- Keeping Children Safe [hybrid event](#) “**Childhoods without violence in the Americas.**” April 17-18, 2024.
- Moore Center for the Prevention of Child Sexual Abuse [in-person event](#), “**Envision: The Future of Prevention.**” June 25-26, 2024.
- The Sexual Violence Research Initiative (SVRI) [in-person event](#), “**SVRI Forum 2024.**” October 21 - 25, 2024.

Reports, Articles & Resources

- Human Rights Watch [blog post](#), “**Global Momentum Builds Toward Free Education for All Children.**”
- The Brave Movement [report](#), “**CRIMINAL STATUTES OF LIMITATION IN LATIN AMERICA.**”
- Geneva Global Hub for Education in Emergencies [blog post](#), “**Education – A Priority From the First Day of Every Crisis.**”
- Center on Budget and Policy Priorities [research](#), “**About 16 Million Children in Low-Income Families Would Gain in First Year of Bipartisan Child Tax Credit Expansion.**”
- UNICEF [press release](#), “**Acute malnutrition has doubled in one month in the north of Gaza strip: UNICEF.**”
- ECPAT [report](#), “**Action Report: Shifting the Narrative To Build a Culture of Child Safety In Online Gaming.**”
- Girls Not Brides [impact report](#), “**Impact Report 2023.**”



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