
The Weekly Pulse

NEWS FROM ORGANIZATIONS AND COALITIONS IN GLOBAL CHILD ADVOCACY



Vol. 176: UNICEF Report, International Day of Play, Moms First & Digital Futures for Children

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Quick Summary

[UNICEF](#) released the report, “Delivering With and For Adolescent Girls” which provides a comprehensive overview of the urgent need to prioritize the rights and well-being of adolescent girls globally. Drawing on insights from nearly 590,000 voices, including girls, boys, young women, and men, UNICEF’s poll underscores five key policy areas crucial for empowering girls. These priorities include ensuring school access and skills development, comprehensive sexuality education and health services, classes for parents and caregivers on girl’s rights, financial literacy training, and financial security. With just six years remaining to fulfill commitments outlined in the Sustainable Development Goals, the report emphasizes the importance of prioritizing investments across various sectors, including health, nutrition, education, protection, economic empowerment, and gender equality. The identified priorities serve as a roadmap for policymakers and decision-makers but also as a call to action based on the

voices of young people and how to translate these findings into actionable steps. **To read the full report, [click here](#).**

The [United Nations General Assembly](#) has passed a resolution declaring June 11th as the International Day of Play, to be observed annually. Led by a core group of 13 countries and supported by a coalition of another 138 countries, this initiative underscores the importance of play and recreation in fostering children's development. Signifying that play is not only a fundamental right for children around the world but crucial to their learning and well-being. The resolution invites all UN member states, specialized agencies, and relevant stakeholders to participate by hosting educational activities. Facilitated by UNICEF and UNESCO, the Day of Play aims to highlight the impact of play on fostering essential life skills, promoting tolerance, resilience, and social inclusion, and contributing to the welfare and prosperity of children and youth worldwide, regardless of their circumstances. **To read the UN statement, [click here](#). To read more coverage, [click here](#) and [here](#).**

A report titled “The Employee Benefit That Pays for Itself,” authored by [Moms First](#) in collaboration with [Boston Consulting Group](#), addresses the critical importance of tackling the childcare crisis in America, particularly its impact on businesses. They highlight the adverse effects of inadequate childcare on the productivity of working parents and the resulting loss of valuable talent for companies. The report underscores the economic imperative of investing in childcare benefits. Through this collaborative effort, they have compiled evidence of the considerable return on investment associated with robust childcare benefits for employees. By demonstrating the correlation between such benefits and a thriving workforce, the report sheds light on the potential gains for companies by prioritizing the well-being of working parents through strategic investments in childcare support systems. **To read the full report, [click here](#).**

Spotlight

The [Digital Futures For Children](#) research center published a report titled, “The Best Interests of the Child in the Digital Environment” examining the concept of children's best interests within the digital realm. It highlights [Article 3\(1\)](#) of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child ([UNCRC](#)), which stresses the importance of considering children's best interests in all relevant decisions. However, they also point out potential misunderstandings or misapplications of this principle, such as using it as a substitute for addressing the full spectrum of children's rights or adopting a one-size-fits-all approach.

The report suggests that while determining a child's best interests is vital in certain contexts, it should be part of a broader framework that upholds and fulfills all children's rights outlined in the UNCRC. Instead of treating 'best interests' as a standalone principle, it should complement a more comprehensive approach to safeguarding children's rights in its totality. This becomes particularly relevant when balancing conflicting rights or when external claims threaten children's well-being.

The report also underscores the responsibility for determining and safeguarding children's best interests primarily lies with the States, as mandated by the UNCRC. While technology companies are expected to implement decisions aligned with children's best interests, ultimately authority and accountability rest with the State. The report stresses the necessity for both States and digital service providers to prioritize children's best interests in the digital sphere to make change by outlining actionable steps for collaboration and frameworks to create a digital landscape where children's well-being and rights are upheld as primary considerations.

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

Events

- Moving Minds Alliance [virtual event](#) **"Amplifying Research Voices & Highlighting Young Children in Emergency Settings: South Asia."** April 4, 2024 at 7:00 am ET.
- ECPAT International, Eurochild, and Terre des Hommes Netherlands [hybrid event](#) **"Speaking Up for Child Safety Online."** April 8, 2024.
- Safe Online [hybrid event](#) **"Global Age Assurance Standards Summit."** April 8 - 12, 2024.
- Keeping Children Safe [in-person event](#) **"Organizational Child Protection Summit: Childhoods Without Violence in the Americas."** April 17 - 18, 2024.
- The Wild Network [hybrid event](#) **"2024 Women's Global Leadership Forum."** May 7 - 9, 2024.
- Moore Center for the Prevention of Child Sexual Abuse [in-person event](#), **"Envision: The Future of Prevention."** June 25-26, 2024.

Reports, Articles & Resources

- The Century Foundation [report](#), “**Care Matters: A 2024 Report Card for Policies in the States.**”
- Align [blog post](#), “**‘Too young’, ‘Too old’, ‘Too emotional’: how gender norms hold women back in local politics.**”
- UNICEF [report](#), “**UNICEF’s training package on child-friendly legal services.**”
- PLAN International [blog post](#), “**Crisis must not stop Sudanese and Chadian children from realizing their potential.**”
- CARE [blog post](#), “**Nine years of conflict: Yemen’s women and girls bear the brunt of uncertainty.**”
- Together for Girls [update](#), “**Bringing the power of data to end violence against children to Capitol Hill.**”
- The Sexual Violence Research [podcast](#).



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