
The Weekly Pulse

NEWS FROM ORGANIZATIONS AND COALITIONS IN GLOBAL CHILD ADVOCACY



Vol. 48: International Response to the Developments in Afghanistan

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Quick Summary

The State Department, and other signatories, released a [joint press statement](#) expressing their deep worry about “Afghan women and girls, their rights to education, work and freedom of movement.” The statement asserts the signatories’ commitment to “stand ready to assist them [Afghan women and girls] with humanitarian aid and support, to ensure that their voices can be heard.”

Senate Foreign Relations Committee Chairman Bob Menendez (D-NJ) and Senator Jeanne Shaheen (D-NH), along with 44 of their Senate colleagues sent a [letter](#) to Secretaries Blinken and Mayorkas urging them to “to take swift, robust action to protect and support Afghan women leaders facing unparalleled danger following the

Taliban’s violent sweep across Afghanistan and seizure of Kabul.” The bipartisan letter “called on the Administration to create a humanitarian parole category specifically for women leaders, activists, human rights defenders, parliamentarians, journalists, and members of the Female Tactical Platoon of the Afghan Special Security Forces, and to streamline the paperwork process to facilitate referrals to allow for fast, humane, and efficient relocation to the United States.”

Congress Members Vicky Hartzler (R-MO) and Karen Bass (D-CA) and Senators Lisa Murkowski (R-AK) and Tina Smith (D-MN) introduced two pieces of anti-trafficking legislation to protect children.

- **The Empowering Law Enforcement to Fight Sex Trafficking Demand Act of 2021 ([H.R 3996](#))** “allows law enforcement agencies to apply for federal funding to implement sex trafficking demand reduction programs.”
- **The Human Trafficking and Exploitation Prevention Training Act of 2021 ([S.2136](#))** “seeks to prevent human trafficking and the exploitation of children by creating education programs for parents/guardians, students, teachers, school and youth development personnel to recognize and respond to signs of trafficking and exploitation. The legislation would prioritize grants to regions based on the prevalence of trafficking and the size of underserved populations, including foster youth, runaway homeless youth, and kids involved in the child welfare system, groups that traffickers target.”

ECPAT-USA [supports](#) the introduction of both bills and applauds Representatives Hartzler and Bass and Senators Murkowski and Smith for championing the two bills.

Virtual Events

- ICRW’s 45th Anniversary series [event](#), “Adolescent Girls: Breaking Barriers, Shifting Norms.” **24 August, 2021 8 AM ET**
- Ending Violence Partnership’s [event](#), “Children’s Participation in the Development of a National Action Plan- Open session.” **27 August, 2021 7AM ET**
- August Global Campaign for Education-US [Coalition Meeting](#) **31 August, 2021 10 AM ET**
- The Alliance for Children Protection in Humanitarian Action’s 2021 [Annual Meeting](#) on Child Protection in Humanitarian Action. **4-8th October, 2021**
- UNICEF, WHO, UK Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office, the Sexual Violence Research Initiative, Raising Voices, The End Violence Partnership, and The Commission for Children are hosting an [event](#) on “Intersections Between

International Response to the Developments in Afghanistan

Many international NGOs released statements expressing deep concern over developments in Afghanistan and urging action by the U.S. government and all actors in Afghanistan to protect human rights for everyone, especially women and girls.

- **Alliance for Peacebuilding and One Earth Future** [letter to Congress](#) urges lawmakers to ensure the President protects Afghan civilians, secure evacuations for qualifying Afghan partners, and expedite visa and resettlement processes.
- **The Coalition to End Violence Against Women and Girls Globally's** [letter](#) asks the Biden Administration to “respond to the immediate need to evacuate vulnerable Afghans and the growing humanitarian crisis.” Along with the call for evacuations, The Coalition also calls on the Administration to “ensure paths to seeking asylum are fully open to Afghan citizens and that durable solutions based on the wishes and needs of Afghan refugees are prioritized, including for women and girls particularly at risk of gender-based violence.”
- **InterAction**, and 65 other organizational signatories, sent a [letter](#) to Secretary Blinken “calling for the Biden Administration to rapidly expand and further operationalize pathways for Afghan NGO Staff Evacuations. The letter includes a call to expand eligibility to include “family relations to include parents, siblings, and their immediate families,” along with spouses and children.
- **Girls Not Brides** released a [statement](#) calling for “solidarity with girls and women in Afghanistan” within the international community. The statement also calls on governments to “continue putting pressure on the new regime to guarantee the rights of girls and women, so that they can lead a life free of gender-based violence and discrimination.”
- **Moving Minds Alliance and the Early Childhood Development Action Network** released a [joint statement](#) on early childhood development and the Afghanistan and Haiti Crises. The statement expresses “deep concern and support for the people of Afghanistan and Haiti and draws attention to the immediate and long-term impacts of these humanitarian crises.” It calls on “donors, humanitarian agencies and government leaders to provide immediate and life-saving aid to young children and families in need. This includes expanded investments in nurturing care as a core part of development assistance, emergency response and in humanitarian action.” It also urges “the international community to further their commitment to providing increased and sustained funding, diplomatic engagement, and support for long-lasting solutions that protect the rights of children and foster their holistic development.”

- **Together for Girls signed a Vital Voices [letter](#)** urging the Biden Administration to “not abandon Afghan women and girls.” Their letter includes a call to “allocate resources for livelihood assistance and resettlement for women and children being evacuated.”
- **World Vision’s [statement](#)** urges all actors in the Afghanistan conflict to respect International Humanitarian Law and prioritize the lives of Afghan children, their families, and communities. The statement also urges the international community to maintain a presence in the country to prevent an “unprecedented humanitarian catastrophe.”
- **Women’s Refugee Commissions [press release](#)** urges the Biden Administration to immediately evacuate Afghan women’s rights activists and their families trapped in Afghanistan. The statement also calls on both the U.S government and UN Member States to “hold the Taliban accountable for ensuring continued access to education for women and girls... and hold the Taliban accountable for violations of international humanitarian law and human rights abuses, including gender-based violence.”

Reports, Articles & Resources

- **Partnership for Maternal, Newborn, and Child Health (PMNCH)’s [publication](#)**, “Rise, Respond, Recover: Renewing progress on women’s, children’s and adolescents’ health in the era of COVID-19”
- **Girls Not Brides’ [fact sheet and brief](#)**, “Child marriage and modern slavery.”
- **American Academy of Pediatrics’ [policy statement](#)**, “The Effects of Armed Conflict on Children.”
- **Plan International’s [blog](#)**, “Haiti Earthquake” Put Children First.”
- **Search for Common Ground’s [report](#)**, “Handling Harmful Content Online: Cross-national perspectives of users affected by conflict.”
- **Alliance for Girls’ [research report](#)**, “Uniting Isolated Voices: Girls and Gender Expansive Youth During COVID-19.”
- **New York Times’ [article](#)**, “Biden Administration Prompts Largest Permanent Increase in Food Stamps.”

Job Opportunities

[Senior Manager, Early Childhood Development at RTI.](#)

RTI is seeking a Senior Manager, Early Childhood Development to support project and business development initiatives related to early childhood development (ECD) and pre-primary education, ensuring efficient management and quality of work products while working collaboratively with other ECD, education and operational staff. This position will be based in Washington, DC or Research Triangle Park, NC (RTI

headquarters), or may be performed remotely, and will require international travel (approximately 20%).

[Senior Specialist, Early Childhood Care and Development at Save the Children.](#)

Save the Children is seeking a Senior Specialist within their Department of Education and Child Protection, centrally focused on supporting their Sub-Saharan Africa work. The Senior Specialist will provide technical support to country offices to design, implement, monitor and improve the quality of ECCD programs in collaboration with program staff, and will lead new business development and proposal writing to expand and strengthen our ECCD portfolio, particularly on USAID grants.



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