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# *The Weekly Pulse*

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NEWS FROM ORGANIZATIONS AND COALITIONS IN GLOBAL CHILD ADVOCACY



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Vol. 52: Women and Girls Education in Afghanistan, Girls LEAD Act Updates, Amnesty International Report

20 September, 2021

Call to Action

**Save the Children** is calling on President Biden to open more humanitarian pathways for displaced Afghan children and their families seeking safety in the United States. Right now, 10 million children in Afghanistan are in need of humanitarian assistance and 80,000 children have fled their homes due to violence. Save the Children wants the U.S. government to expand “access to humanitarian parole, removing onerous barriers in the visa application process and facilitating a robust refugee resettlement effort”. Click [here](#) to take action and learn more.

Quick Summary

At the [United Nations High-Level Ministerial on the Humanitarian Situation in Afghanistan](#) held on Monday, September 14, [UN Secretary-General António Guterres](#) warned of a looming humanitarian crisis and called on the international community to provide \$606 million in emergency humanitarian aid, which it surpassed. **The New York Times** [detailed](#) that over 1 million children are at risk of death from severe acute malnutrition this year due to the Taliban takeover. According to the United Nations, the poverty level has skyrocketed and basic public services are collapsing since the Taliban took over in the last month. [Henrietta H. Fore](#), the Executive Director at UNICEF also stated that “Nearly 10 million girls and boys depend on humanitarian assistance just to survive...At least one million children will suffer from severe acute malnutrition this year and could die without treatment”. The World Bank, the International Monetary Fund, and many Western countries have halted various humanitarian projects.

**Aljazeera** [reports](#) that the Taliban will allow women to study in “gender-segregated universities”. Higher Education Minister Abdul Baqi Haqqani said “female university students will face restrictions that include a compulsory dress code... hijabs will be mandatory but did not specify if this meant compulsory headscarves or also compulsory face coverings.” Many human rights groups are doubtful of this announcement due to the ban on women’s participation in sports and [violence used against rights activists](#) in the past couple of days.

**The Girls LEAD Act NGO Working Group** is holding a [Girls LEAD Act Virtual Lobbying Day](#) October 7th. [The Girls LEAD Act](#) “recognizes and promotes girls’ civic and political leadership as a priority in U.S. foreign assistance, particularly in efforts to promote and build strong and inclusive democracies and good governance”. Participants will “meet with Congressional Staff to talk about why they support the bill, and how it will accelerate girls’ leadership around the world, if passed”. Anyone with interest in advocating for girl’s education is able to join and training will be provided beforehand. This event is leading up to the International Day of the Girl on October 11th.

**Amnesty International** released a [report](#) titled “Niger: ‘I have nothing left except myself’: The worsening impact on children of conflict in the Tillabéri region of Niger”. This report highlights the worsening conditions for children in the Tillabéri region, between Mali and Burkina Faso. Amnesty cites that “Armed groups have perpetrated war crimes and other human rights abuses. Their attacks have forced many schools to close, robbing tens of thousands of children of an education. Older boys have been targeted for recruitment and killed. In some areas, women and girls have been prohibited from activities outside the home and, at times, forced to marry fighters”. The Niger military has done little to protect civilians and prevent future attacks.

## Virtual Events

- The Ford Foundation [webinar](#) “Progress to end child marriage: a decade of driving forward” **20 September, 2021 8:30am EST.**
- The Alliance for Peacebuilding, NewGen Peacebuilders, Outward Bound Peacebuilding, & Rotary International Zones 34 & 35 [launch](#) of the “Youth and Peace in Action (YPA) Initiative”. **21 September, 2021.** Brookings [event](#) on “Transforming education systems through family-school collaboration” **30 September, 2021 10am EST.**
- FHI 360, UK’s Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office & USAID [roundtable](#) on “Fostering Systemic Change for Adolescent Girls’ Education”. **6 October 2021 9:30am EST.**
- Keep Children Safe [conference](#) “Faith and child safeguarding” **8-11 November 2021.**

## Spotlight

**The UNHCR Committee on the Rights of the Child** held it’s [Day of General Discussion](#): “Children’s Rights and Alternative Care” this week. The goal of this discussion was to “examine broadly the current situation regarding alternative care in its complexity, identify and discuss particular areas of concern with regard to the unnecessary separation of children from their families and appropriate ways to respond to family and child separation in cases where it is unavoidable”.

Given the focus on alternative care, there was a lot of discussion around engagement for children and youth who have experienced the child protection system, the issues within these alternative care systems, and how COVID-19 has impacted these efforts. The committee also acknowledged the abuse children face within these systems and the harm of family separation. The committee called to “expand opportunities to learn from evidence about alternative care options and evidence about what constitutes quality alternative care”, “explore efforts towards the development or strengthening of fully-integrated child protection systems”, and “explore innovative approaches to alternative care for children in particularly vulnerable situations”.

## Reports, Articles & Resources

- **End Violence Against Children** [publication](#) “Disrupting Harm”.
- **Oxfam** [report](#) “Social Norms Structuring Masculinities, Gender Roles, and Stereotypes: Iraqi men and boys’ common misconceptions about women and girls’ participation and empowerment”.

- **The Alliance for Child Protection in Humanitarian Action** [course](#) on “Protecting Children During the COVID-19 Pandemic: Adapting Child Protection Programming”.
- **United Nations Girls’ Education Initiative** [toolkit](#) “EiE-GenKit”.

## Job Opportunity

### [Senior Manager, Children and Youth Initiative at InterAction](#)

InterAction is seeking an experienced team member to contribute to our policy work by advancing the sophistication and effectiveness of our advocacy efforts in areas related to children and youth internationally. Key aspects of this role include: representing and coordinating closely with InterAction’s members working on these issues across a wide range of topics spanning health, education, conflict and more; contributing meaningfully to conversations and strategies (within our coalition and with other organizations and networks) for promoting the welfare of children as a whole, and managing related grants and staff.



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