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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. 57: White House Gender Equity and Equality Strategy, Call for Comments on USAID proposals, & Afghan Girls

October 25, 2021

Quick Summary

**The White House** released its **first-ever National Strategy on Gender Equity and Equality**. Last March, on International Women's Day, the President issued an Executive Order establishing the White House Gender Policy Council (GPC). That Executive Order also charged the GPC with leading the development of the first-ever, government-wide national gender strategy to help guide the Biden-Harris Administration's work on gender equity and equality in domestic and foreign policy. Over the past few months the GPC engaged and collaborated with diverse voices across the federal government, civil society, the private sector, state, local, and Tribal governments, and foreign governments and multilateral organizations. The new Strategy addresses many domestic and international issues, including economic security, gender-based violence, health care,

education, justice, political participation, migration, humanitarian responses, and impacts of climate change. On the importance of eliminating gender-based violence, the Strategy states: “All people deserve to live free from the threat of gender-based violence. Gender-based violence undermines safety, health, well-being, economic potential, and human rights. In addition to the human cost to individuals across their lifespan, gender-based violence has direct and indirect costs for families, communities, and economies and impacts democratic governance, development, and public health. To prevent and respond to gender-based violence wherever it occurs—whether in people’s homes, schools, workplaces, communities, or online—we must develop and strengthen national and global policies to end the scourge of gender-based violence; support survivors through comprehensive service provision; and increase prevention efforts.” You can read the full strategy [here](#).

**USAID** is requesting [proposals](#) for a **disability inclusive pre-primary landscape review**. This review will include a landscape review to “improve understanding of the current PPE landscape for learners with disabilities”, an online event to “harness innovative ideas on how to best include and support children with disabilities and their families in quality PPE programs, which will inform the following”, and a white paper that will enable USAID to “engage more meaningfully in disability inclusive PPE, which might include: discussion of guiding principles, key considerations, best practices, challenges, or persistent questions.” **The deadline for proposals is November 2, 2021**. Click [here](#) for the Request for Proposal.

**USAID** is also [requesting](#) external comments on its **Youth in Development Policy**. They are asking for comments on “Sections or statements where clarification is needed”, “Major gaps and/or inaccuracies” and “Sections or statements that you strongly support and feel are essential for the USAID policy.” USAID highlights that “This policy will be linked to sector-specific implementation guidance from Bureaus. As such, this policy is not intended to fully capture sector-specific nuance.” Click [here](#) for the draft of the Youth in Development Policy 2021. If your organization plans on giving input, please contact Jennifer Rigg ([jrigg@gce-us.org](mailto:jrigg@gce-us.org)). GCE is also holding an [event](#) “USAID Youth in Development Policy Input Session” on November 2, 2021 from 9-10am. **The deadline for comments is November 3, 2021 at 5pm EDT.**

Spotlight

**The Georgetown Institute for Women, Peace and Security, The UK Mission to the United Nations, Permanent Mission of the State of Qatar to the United Nations, Permanent Mission of Canada to the United Nations, and UN Women** held a sideline event “**A New Chapter in Afghanistan: Ensuring Support of Afghan**

**Women & Girls.”** This conversation highlighted the crisis in Afghanistan and how it is disproportionately affecting Afghan women and girls. Speakers included [Lord \(Tariq\) Ahmad of Wimbledon](#), Minister of State for South Asia and the Commonwealth and Prime Minister’s Special Representative on Preventing Sexual Violence in Conflict, United Kingdom; [H.E. Alya bint Ahmed Al Thani](#), Permanent Representative of the State of Qatar to the United Nations; [H.E. Jacqueline O’Neill](#) Canada’s Ambassador for Women, Peace and Security; [Anisa Shaheed](#), Journalist, Tolo News; [H.E. Mette Knudsen](#), Deputy Special Representative (Political) for Afghanistan in the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA); and [Dr. Sima Sami Bahous](#), Executive Director of UN Women. To rewatch the event, click [here](#).

Several Afghan public figures spoke on the state of women in Afghanistan. [Fawzia Koofi](#), a member of the Negotiation Team of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, highlighted that women and religious minority groups are facing catastrophic violence. She stated that the United Nations Security Council is not listening to Afghanistan's women and is not asking them what they want. She also said that women are shut out of planning processes underway at UNDP and the World Bank. Given the looming humanitarian crisis, she called on the United Nations to make the protection of women a precondition for the Taliban to receive humanitarian aid.

[Naheed Farid](#), a Former Member of the Afghan Parliament, spoke of the Taliban reversal of its recent promises relating to girls’ education, women working, and an inclusive government. She emphasized that it has been over a month since girls were banned from attending school. She called on the United Nations to hold the Taliban accountable and stressed the need for the UN Human Rights Council to establish an Afghan human rights commission monitoring system, despite obstacles from China and Russia.

[Mariam Safi](#), the Founding Director of the Organization for Policy Research and Development Studies, discussed intensifying regional concerns about growing insecurity, economic hardship, and the rise of Islamic extremism and the threats these developments pose to neighboring countries. She emphasized the risks of working with the Taliban on humanitarian assistance and the fine line between engagement with the Taliban and recognition of their legitimacy.

#### Virtual Events

- The American Public Health Annual [Meeting](#) “**Creating the Healthiest Nation: Strengthening Social Connectedness**” October 24-27, 2021

- The Children’s Media Association [event](#) **“The Role of Play in ‘Building’ Media Literacy”** Oct 25, 2021 at 8pm EST.
- UN Day 2021 [event](#) **“Blueprint for a Better Future”** October 25, 2021 at 3:30pm EST.
- UNICEF virtual [event](#) **“Ethical considerations when applying behavioural science in projects with children”** October 26, 2021 at 8am EST.
- Devex [conversation](#) on **“The power of girls' education and women’s leadership to transform communities, countries and economies”** October 28, 2021
- Government of Japan, the Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) Movement and Gavi [side event](#) **“Official Nutrition for Growth Summit Side Event: An integrated approach to immunisation and nutrition”** Oct 28, 2021 at 4am EST.
- Keep Children Safe [event](#) **“Tacking online sexual exploitation of children (OSEC) in the Philippines”** November 9, 2021 at 2am EST.
- **The Global Partnership for Education Knowledge and Innovation Exchange (KIX), International Development Research Centre (IDRC) and the Global Partnership for Education (GPE) [Symposium](#)**. November 9, 2021 at 7am EST.

#### Reports, Articles & Resources

- Department of Education [report](#) on “Supporting Child and Student Social, Emotional, Behavioral, and Mental Health Needs”
- United National Association of the United States of America 2021 American Youth Priorities [Report](#)
- We Protect Global Alliance Global Threat [Assessment](#) 2021
- Avaaz [letter](#) by Zarqa Yaftali, Malala Yousafzai, Shaharзад Akbar about standing with Afghan girls
- Center for Global Development [report](#) on “Girls’ Education: Going from What Works to What Works at Scale”
- Global Citizen [article](#) on “Why Is Tigray's Civil War a Crisis for Ethiopia's Women & Girls?”
- PLOS Medicine [article](#) “Gender-equitable caregiver attitudes and education and safety of adolescent girls in South Kivu, DRC: A secondary analysis from a randomized controlled trial”
- UNESDOC [report](#) on “When schools shut: gendered impacts of COVID-19 school closures”

#### Fellowship Opportunity

**Global Partnership for Education (GPE)** is offering a [fellowship opportunity](#) for students who are interested in “global education advocacy, social media and/or nonprofit management”. This position assists with social media, communications, membership, coalition engagement, event management, research, youth engagement, fundraising, public policy, advocacy, and/or organizational development. Preference is given to those that **apply by November 3, 2021**.



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