
The Weekly Pulse

NEWS FROM ORGANIZATIONS AND COALITIONS IN GLOBAL CHILD ADVOCACY



Vol. 60: Nancy Pelosi COP26 Remarks, World Vision Policy Paper, Girls LEAD Act Sign-On Letter & Together for Girls Report

Nov 15, 2021

Quick Summary

At the United Nations Conference of Parties in Glasgow (COP26), Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi gave [remarks](#) highlighting the gender aspects of climate change and the importance of investing in women and girls. During the Advancing Gender Equality in Climate Action Event on November 9th, she said, “Eighty percent of people displaced in climate change globally are women. Addressing the rapidly changing climate is a matter of justice and equality, with the most vulnerable most affected” Pelosi also stated “People ask me all the time for many years: ‘If you rule the world, what one thing would you do?’ If I ruled the world, the one thing that I would do is invest in the education of women and girls and their empowerment... You and I know *that* makes all the difference in the world, not just to the women – those women [and] to their families, to the communities, to their countries, to the world.”

World Vision released a [policy paper](#) titled “Moving Beyond Silos: How a whole child approach can help transform vulnerable communities.” In this paper, World Vision explains that:

“A whole child approach to foreign policy engages a wide range of actors and a broad spectrum of support systems, including family, school, and community, to help children and youth reach their full potential. This approach equally values all aspects of a child’s well-being—social, emotional, physical, intellectual, spiritual, and creative—to ensure children become active citizens and lifelong learners. It also leverages the full force of the U.S. government’s diplomacy, development, and humanitarian aid, and relies upon strong holistic metrics for success and interagency coordination.”

They note that “lack of coordination, inflexible funding mechanisms, and lack of research and decision-making are among the hurdles to overcome.” World Vision provides six policy recommendations to improve a whole child approach in U.S. foreign diplomacy and assistance. First, to “Appoint high-level leadership to oversee implementation of a whole child approach” Second, to “Increase funding for child-focused programs.” Third, to “Create a White House Global Children and Youth Summit” to shed light on the challenges children face and their needs. Fourth, to “Recognize child protection and education programs as life-saving” and that funding and deployment of these programs is crucial. Fifth, to “Fully implement evidence-based strategies.” Sixth, to “Ensure the meaningful participation of children and youth.” Finally, World Vision notes that it is important “to move toward child-focused foreign assistance and build on the programs and policies that successfully foster integration. This focus will bring strategic alignment to foreign assistance funding across the U.S. government, making it more effective, efficient, and impactful.”

ChildFund International, Save the Children, and World Vision created a sign-on [letter](#) in support of the Keeping Girls in School Act ([H.R. 4134](#)), the Girls LEAD Act ([H.R. 1661](#)), and the Safe From the Start Act ([H.R. 571](#)). They are requesting the House Foreign Affairs Committee to markup these three important pieces of legislation before the end of the calendar year. They state that “These complementary bipartisan bills address critical U.S. foreign policy priorities related to girls’ secondary education, girls’ civic and political leadership, and gender-based violence in crises settings, respectively.” If your organization is interested in signing on, fill out the form [here](#).

Spotlight

Together for Girls [released](#) its “Stakeholders Report 2019-2021: Building a Safer World.” This report, made possible in part by a grant of the Children’s Policy and

Funding Initiative, highlights Violence Against Children and Youth Surveys (VACS) and various humanitarian programs. The report calls on continued and increased funding for VACS and their expansion to collect data in more regions.

The VACS “measure multiple forms of violence— sexual, physical and emotional—and provide important data on the context, risk factors, protective factors and consequences of violence. These nationally representative population-based household surveys generate a wide range of information about violence against children, adolescents and young people that can then inform policies and programs.” These reports covered children and youth in 23 countries, which is 11% of the world’s children and youth population.

The VACS findings have been adapted to humanitarian settings. Working with various humanitarian aid organizations, they released “Measuring Violence Against Children in Humanitarian Settings: Implementation Guidance for a Humanitarian Violence Against Children and Youth Survey (HVACS).” This guidance helps “with measuring violence against children in humanitarian contexts, leading to better data to inform prevention and response efforts.” This report assists in an area where data is sparse.

Another important report that utilized VACS data is the policy brief titled “Gender and Corporal Punishment”. The brief highlights “findings from the secondary analyses of the VACS exploring the intersection among gender, experiences of and attitudes toward corporal punishment and its consequences. It provides a series of recommendations for further research and considerations for policy and program development to prevent corporal punishment in schools.”

Virtual Events

- Justice with Children virtual [event](#) “**Ensuring Access to Justice for all Children: towards non-discriminatory and inclusive child justice systems.**” November 15-20, 2021.
- Save the Children virtual [event](#) “**Child Immunization in Jeopardy: Expert Perspectives from Around the World**”. November 16, 2021 at 9am EST.
- **GCE-US Coalition [Meeting](#)**. November 17th from 9:30 am EST.
- **Catholic Relief Twitter [Chat](#)** on Children’s Rights. November 18th, 2021 at 10am EST.
- **United Nations Official [Commemoration](#) of the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women.** Nov 24, 2021 at 10am EST.
- **Inclusive Education and Early Childhood Community of Practice [meeting](#)** on December 8th at 9:30am EST.
- **RewirEd [Summit](#)**. December 12-14, 2021.

- Global Disability Summit: [Youth Summit](#). February 14, 2022.
- Global Disability Summit: [Civil Society Forum](#). February 15, 2022.
- Global Disability [Summit](#). February 16-17, 2022.

Reports, Articles & Resources

- ***[InterAction's Children & Youth Working Group statement on USAID Youth in Development Policy.](#)***
- Global COVID-19-Associated Orphanhood and Caregiver Deaths Webinar [Recording](#)
- Devex [article](#) "Q&A: The climate crisis impacts vulnerable children first and worst"
- Girls not Brides [resource](#) on "Child marriage in humanitarian contexts"
- Sexual Violence Research Initiative (SVRI) [article](#) "Voices from the South: Contributing to the production of evidence on VAW and VAC"
- The World We Want [podcast](#) "PMAC 2022 Podcast - Youth Voices On Climate And Health, Part I"
- UNICEF [essay](#) titled "The impacts of climate change put almost every child at risk"



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