
The Weekly Pulse

NEWS FROM ORGANIZATIONS AND COALITIONS IN GLOBAL CHILD ADVOCACY



Vol. 73: Crisis in Ukraine & The Georgetown Institute for Women, Peace, & Security Virtual Event.

Feb 28, 2022

Quick Summary

UNICEF USA disseminated an [article](#) “UNICEF: Children in Crossfire of Ukraine Crisis”, which states that “fighting has taken an increasingly heavy toll on the civilian population of 3.4 million people — **including 510,000 children** — living in the Donbas region.” UNICEF’s emergency response in Ukraine includes “prepositioning health, hygiene, and emergency, education supplies as close as possible to communities near the line of contact, trucking safe water to conflict-affected areas, supporting mobile child protection teams providing psychosocial care to children traumatized by chronic insecurity, responding to cases of violence and abuse against children and assisting children separated from family, working with municipalities to ensure there is immediate help for children and families in need.” To read and learn more about UNICEF in the crisis in Ukraine, click [here](#).

In addition, the United Nations announced it will increase its operations in Ukraine and is setting aside **\$20 million from the Central Emergency Response Fund to help with “health care, shelter, food, and water and sanitation to the most vulnerable people affected by the conflict”** according to Martin Griffiths, UN Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator. The Associated Press and Reuters report that “officials with the UN and the International Committee of the Red Cross are calling for adherence to humanitarian law and urging Russia and Ukraine to protect civilians and critical infrastructure.” To read the full story, click: [The Associated Press \(2/25\)](#), [Reuters \(2/24\)](#)

[Changing the Way We Care](#) is liaising with other organizations to provide urgent support for children. [The Mirror](#) reports that “**scared Ukrainian children** have been pictured being led down into metro systems to shelter from Russian shelling as air raid sirens sound in somber echoes of World War Two.” According to Hopes and Homes for Children, there are over **100,000 children are living in 600 orphanages in Ukraine**; “Many children warehoused in Ukraine’s orphanages are already exposed to neglect, beatings, rape, torture, and trafficking...Large numbers of these children are in danger of being left behind in the firing line, to face the dangers of war, alone.” Furthermore, “Millions of vulnerable families are set to be torn apart amid the chaos.” [Disability Rights International](#) has reported the devastating conditions children have faced in orphanages and the critical support children need to transition and thrive. At this time, it is [reported](#) that **3 children have been killed due to Russian airstrikes**. Organizations such as [Voices of Children](#), [Save the Children](#), [Ukrainian Red Cross](#), [Kyiv Independent](#), and the [International Rescue Committee](#) are among the key organizations that are working on the ground helping citizens and the children of Ukraine during this crisis. To learn more about how the crisis is affecting children, click [here](#).

Funding Opportunity

The Library of Congress will be [awarding](#) prizes to organizations that draw public attention to the importance of literacy, and the need to promote literacy and encourage reading. There are four prizes that are being awarded. First is **The David M. Rubenstein Prize**. It is awarded “for an outstanding and measurable contribution to increasing literacy levels to an organization based either inside or outside the United States that has demonstrated exceptional and sustained depth in its commitment to the advancement of literacy.” The second is the **American Prize**. It is awarded for a “significant and measurable contribution to increasing literacy levels in the United States or the national awareness of the importance of literacy to an organization that is based in the United States.” Third is the **International Prize**. It is awarded for a “significant and measurable contribution to increasing literacy levels in a country other than the United States to an organization that is based either inside or outside the United

States.” Lastly, the **Successful Practices Honorees** is a prize where “up to 15 organizations that apply in the three major prize categories are recognized for their successful implementation of a specific literacy practice.” To learn more about these prizes and apply, click [here](#).

Spotlight

The Georgetown Institute for Women, Peace, and Security held a [virtual event](#) “Untapped Power: Leveraging Diversity and Inclusion for Conflict and Development.” This event was to celebrate the book launch of “Untapped Power: Leveraging Diversity and Inclusion for Conflict and Development” by [Carla Koppell](#). The event focused on “ how to advance diversity, equity, and inclusion across development and peacebuilding. It shared the call to action for governments, multilateral institutions, and civil society actors to center DEI in addressing global challenges.” To watch the recording of this event, click [here](#). If interested in getting a copy of “Untapped Power”, click [here](#).

Moderated by [Ambassador Melanne Verveer](#), Executive Director, Georgetown Institute for Women, Peace, and Security, [Carla Koppell](#), Senior Advisor for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion and Distinguished Fellow, Georgetown Institute for Women, Peace, and Security, spoke about how she became frustrated by “the fact that generation after generation of foreign policy professionals didn’t know of the incredible compelling evidence and critical moral and ethical case for a focus on diversity, equity, and inclusion in all of the work that we do around the world.” She created this book as a resource that would enable teaching and learning in the foreign policy field. She emphasized that it is essential to think about the global movement as a movement, not just for equity and inclusion but a movement for broader peace and prosperity.

Other key speakers included [Atifete Jahjaga](#), Former President of the Republic of Kosovo; [Wazhma Frogh](#), Founder, Women and Peace Studies Organization, Afghanistan; [Saji Prelis](#), Director, Children & Youth Programs, Search for Common Ground; Co-Chair, Global Coalition on Youth, Peace, and Security; and [Dan Baer](#), the Europe Program at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace.

[Saji Prelis](#), Director, Children & Youth Programs, Search for Common Ground and Co-Chair, Global Coalition on Youth, Peace, and Security spoke about the importance of including youth in shaping policies and recognizing them as critical partners for peace and security issues. He emphasized that “throughout history, young people have been in the forefront of social movements to shift systems to be more equitable and just. And the truth is, young people will not wait around for the international community to

recognize them.” Prelis explained that we need to “shift away from a policy panic approach towards a policy opportunity approach, away from seeing young people as troublemakers and villains to seeing young people as a political force for peace.” Barriers still exist, including the social/cultural boundary and financing new leadership, but he noted that “the movement is beyond why young people matter and now towards how young people can be engaged. The tools have been developed and now we must engage governments and engage the international community to create a shift toward how we do it.”

To watch the recording of this event, click [here](#). If interested in getting a copy of “Untapped Power”, click [here](#).

Virtual Events

- **Protect Education in Emergencies NOW! [Global Launch](#).** Mar 1, 2022 at 8 am ET.
- USAID and YouthPower2: Learning and Evaluation [virtual event](#) **“Building the Evidence Base: Recent Learnings in PYD Research.”** Mar 2, 2022 at 9 am ET.
- UNICEF and the Work Bank Group [webinar](#) **“Remote Learning for Resilient Education Systems.”** Mar 2, 2022 at 8 am ET.
- **Global Campaign for Education- US Coalition [Meeting](#).** Mar 2, 2022 at 9 am ET.
- 49th Human Rights Council High-Level Side Event **“Ending and Preventing Child Recruitment: a discussion on the progress achieved and the challenges ahead.”** Mar 14, 2022 at 7:30 pm EST. [RSVP](#) by March 7, 2022.
- **UNICEF USA Virtual Advocacy Day.** Mar 24, 2022 . [RSVP](#) by Mar 7, 2022

Reports, Articles & Resources

- Devex [article](#) **“NGOs, donors step up response as Russians attack on Ukraine sparks chaos.”**
- EducationLinks [article](#) **“How to Develop High-Quality Pre-Primary Programs.”**
- Save the Children [article](#) **“Afghanistan: A Fifth of Starving Families Sending Children to Work as Incomes Plummet in Past Six Months.”**
- The United Nations Girls’ Education Initiative [podcast](#) **“How can we free education from harmful gender stereotypes?”**
- The Guardian [Op-Ed](#) by Waris Dirie **“Girls should be educated, not mutilated. The cutting of women must end, now.”**
- The World Health Organization (WHO) [publication](#) **“Working for a brighter, healthier future: How WHO improves health and promotes well-being for the world’s adolescents.”**



Copyright © 2021 Tides Center, All rights reserved.