
The Weekly Pulse

NEWS FROM ORGANIZATIONS AND COALITIONS IN GLOBAL CHILD ADVOCACY



Vol. 76: FY 2023 SFOPS GBV Appropriations Request, FY 2022 Humanitarian Account, President's remarks on GBV, advocacy on Ukraine, Syria, and Online abuse

March 21, 2022

Quick Summary

The Coalition to End Violence against Women and Girls Globally released their **FY 2023 State, Foreign Operations and Related Programs (SFOPS) GBV Appropriations Request**. For FY 2023, they are calling Congress to appropriate “\$414 million to support programs to prevent and respond to gender-based violence (GBV) globally in the FY2023 State, Foreign Operations and Related Programs Appropriations bill.” Of the \$414 million, the community is recommending that \$325 million for the U.S. Strategy to Prevent and Respond to GBV Globally, \$30 million for Ending Child, Early, and Forced Marriage, and \$25 million for Responding to GBV and COVID-19 Through Increased Funding for the UN Trust Fund to End Violence Against Women. Currently, it is estimated that [“1 in 5 girls](#) will be forced into child marriages before they turn 18 and even more prevalent .in times of conflict and humanitarian crisis. Currently, [9 out of 10 countries](#) with the highest child marriage rates are fragile or extremely fragile states.” To

read the appropriations letter, click [here](#). **If your organization is interested in signing on by March 21, 2022, click [here](#).**

In his remarks at a White House event celebrating the re-authorization of the Violence Against Women Act, **President Joe Biden announced his support for passage of the International Violence Against Women Act (IVAWA)**, as an extension of this priority. The president stated, “As long as there are women in this country and around the world who live in fear of violence, there is more we have to do to fulfill this sacred commitment. No one, no one, regardless of gender or sexual orientation should experience abuse. And if they do, they should have the services and support they need to get through it. And we’re not going to rest...**And one last thing; some of you here helped me work on the International Violence Against Women Act. I’m coming back (for IVAWA). Seriously...Let’s keep going.**” The IVAWA provides a holistic approach and whole government strategy for US efforts to prevent and respond to gender-based violence globally, especially violence against girls and women. To view the President’s remarks, click [here](#).

The FY 2022 omnibus spending bill cut \$1 billion from humanitarian accounts in the State-Foreign Operations bill. According to an article by [Roll Call](#), “When the bill’s \$4.1 billion in emergency supplemental humanitarian funding for Ukraine is excluded, the baseline fiscal 2022 spending level for humanitarian accounts covered by the State-Foreign Operations title comes in at \$6.8 billion — a \$1 billion cut compared to fiscal 2021 enacted levels.” [Lisa Peña](#), the Director of Policy, Budget, and Appropriations for the bipartisan U.S. Global Leadership Coalition, stated that “It cuts the humanitarian [account] disastrously, This bill was insufficient prior to [Russian President Vladimir] Putin even moving his tanks near the border with Ukraine. We knew there were price spikes on food and other commodities prior to the war in Ukraine.” However, it is important to highlight that the “Base fiscal 2022 State-Foreign Operations spending received an increase over enacted levels of 1 percent, or nearly \$600 million — the smallest increase of any of the 12 federal spending bills that Congress passed last week as part of its omnibus spending deal.” Click [here](#) to learn more and read the article.

Hope and Homes for Children, Maestral International, Missing Children Europe, Defence for Children ECPAT Netherlands, All-Ukrainian Foundation for Children's Rights, Better Care Network released a joint statement “**Key Recommendations to Uphold the Rights of Ukrainian Children Deprived of Family Care.**” The statement highlights that “One of the most concerning elements of this fast-developing, multi-country crisis, is the delay in establishing a centralized, cross-country information management system to keep track of the whereabouts, safety, and well-being of the

nearly 100,000 children from Ukrainian institutions. Already exposed to the neglect synonymous with institutionalization, the vulnerability of these children, whether they are still in Ukraine or have crossed borders of neighboring countries, is increasing by the day.” They call on international organizations, governments, and NGOs to:

- Coordinate an effective international joint response mechanism building on pre-existing localized response and information systems.
- Champion the rights of children deprived of family care, ensure no child is unaccounted for, protect children in institutions in Ukraine.
- Support and enable, whenever possible, family strengthening and reunification for refugee families and unaccompanied and separated children.
- Promote family and community-based care over institutionalization.
- Provide refugee children with the same level of care as the children who are nationals of the country of reception.
- Address the immediate and specific needs of all refugee children, including unaccompanied and separated children and children relocated from institutions, upon their arrival to reception hubs.
- Renew commitment to upholding the rights of all vulnerable children, throughout the current crisis and beyond.

To read the joint statement, click [here](#).

Last week marked the **11 year anniversary of the civil war in Syria**. According to [UNICEF](#), “Nearly 5.7 million registered refugees from Syria, including **almost 2.7 million children**, currently live in Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, and Turkey.” The country still faces hunger, drought, and a collapsing economy. According to the [International Rescue Committee](#), “59% of the Households interviewed reported that children have no access to a child or adolescent safe spaces, 25% reported that it is common for the community members to rely on early marriage as a coping mechanism, 46% reported that it is common for the community members to drop children out of school to work as a coping mechanism, and 43% (3,288) reported having children not attending school.” To learn more about what organizations are doing to assist children and families who are affected by the Civil War in Syria, click [here](#).

Spotlight

The National Democratic Institute held a virtual panel discussion “**Renewing Democracy: A Global Partnership to End Online Harassment and Abuse.**” This event highlighted how social media platforms and other digital technologies have given rise to new forms of gender-based violence. Online violence threatens the safety and

rights of individual women, girls, and members of other marginalized groups and undermines the strength of democracies. The consequences of online gender-based violence spill over into the physical world. Guest speakers included Ambassador Linda Thomas-Greenfield, Representative of the United States of America to the United Nations; Trine Bramsen, Minister for Gender Equality and Minister for Transport, Denmark; Ann Linde, Minister for Foreign Affairs, Sweden; Vicky Ford, Minister for Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean, United Kingdom; and Julie Inman Grant, eSafety Commissioner, Australia.

In her opening remarks, Ambassador Thomas-Greenfield stated that “One of the core priorities of the Biden Administration, and our new National Strategy on Gender Equity and Equality, is preventing and responding to all forms of gender-based violence. Later this year the United States will release the first-ever U.S. National Action Plan to End Gender-Based Violence and an update to the 2016 US strategy to prevent and respond to gender-based violence globally. Biden first helped Author and champion the Violence Against Women Act in 1994 when there was no Google, no Facebook, no Twitter. Back then there was simply no concept of harassment and abuse online. The Internet was in its infancy. **But now, as we all know, so much of the abuse, harassment, and even violence, that women and girls face is facilitated by the internet, and even perpetrated on it.**”

After the opening remarks, panelists Zina Alam, Media Specialist, UNFPA; Fatima Mena Baide, Chief of Honduran Anticorruption Party; Tracey Breedon, VP of Safety and Social Advocacy, Match Group; and Agita Pasaribu, Founder and CEO, Bully.id talked about their work in preventing online harassment and abuse, including a safety by design. Julie Inman Grant, eSafety Commissioner, Australia noted that they “**provide a civil pathway to helping people remove image-based abuse or serious adult cyber abuse or youth-based cyberbullying so that people don’t have to go through the criminal justice pathway which can be re-traumatizing.**” To rewatch the event, click [here](#).

Virtual Events

- UNICEF’s Global Breastfeeding Collective [virtual event](#) “**Strategies for Infant and Young Child Feeding in Climate-Related Emergencies.**” March 21, 2022, at 8 am ET.
- The American Council on Women, Peace, and Security (ACWPS) [virtual discussion](#) “**Looking Ahead: Rethinking the U.S. Role in Afghanistan.**” March 22, 2022, at 11 am ET.

- ODI [virtual event](#) “**Evolution and Revolution in Gender-Responsive Humanitarianism.**” March 22, 2022, at 11 am ET.
- Aidex and the Amani Institute [virtual panel discussion](#) “**The State of Humanitarian Aid in Afghanistan**” March 22, 2022, at 10 am ET.
- Georgetown University Collaborative on Global Children’s Issues, the Institute for the Study of International Migration, and the Georgetown Americas Institute [virtual event](#) “**Innovating Protection for Children at Risk in the Americas**”. March 30, 2022, at 12:20 pm ET.
- **The UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) Youth Forum.** April 19-20, 2022.
- The Lancet [webinar](#) “**Gender equality today for a sustainable tomorrow.**” March 22, 2022, at 5 am ET.

Reports, Articles & Resources

- We Trust You(th) Initiative [video series](#) Ep. 1 “**Why should YOU (donors and iNGOs) trust us (youth)?**”
- New York Times [opinion piece](#) “**Here Is How It Feels to Watch Russia Wage War in Ukraine: We asked Ukrainians born after 1991, who have only ever known an independent Ukraine, to tell us what they think about Russia attacking their country.**”
- United Nations Girls’ Education Initiative (UNGEI) [position paper](#) “**Our call for gender-transformative education to advance climate justice.**”
- Global Citizen [article](#) “**WarTok: How Ukraine is Using TikTok to Fight Putin’s Invasion.**”

Professional Opportunity

The United Nations Office of the Secretary-General’s Envoy on Youth is now accepting applications for its “**Young Leaders for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**” flagship initiative. Throughout the two-year term, these young leaders will “**engage young people for the 2030 Agenda, not only through their existing initiatives, platforms, and networks but through advocacy opportunities with the United Nations and its partners.**” Applications will close on March 31, 2022. To learn more and apply, click [here](#).

