
The Weekly Pulse

NEWS FROM ORGANIZATIONS AND COALITIONS IN GLOBAL CHILD ADVOCACY



Vol. 77: What Kids Want Congress to Know, InterAction statement on the FY 2022 Omnibus Appropriations Bill, & Ukraine.

March 28, 2022

Sign-On Letter

Global Campaign for Education- US circulated a note stating that the **introduction of the READ Act Reauthorization in the House and Senate is planned for Monday 3/28** by Representatives Bass and Chris Smith, and Senators Durbin and Rubio. The language remains the same as the original READ Act, with a 10-year reauthorization period. **If your organization is interested in publicly endorsing, please fill out this [form](#) by 12 pm ET on Friday, April 1st.**

Quick Summary

InterAction issued a [statement](#) on the “disappointing” FY 2022 Omnibus Appropriations Bill. The statement argued that “The State and Foreign Operations bill

received the smallest increase in funding of any of the bills, despite widespread global needs, ranging from pandemic response to looming famine to assaults on human rights to refugee flows.” The statement called on Congress to provide additional supplemental funding and “the Administration and Congress to redouble their efforts in support of a strong foreign assistance topline for the Fiscal Year 2023.” The signatories highlighted that this omnibus appropriations bill is a disappointing reflection of the United States’ global leadership role in funding foreign assistance. To read the statement, click [here](#).

The United States International Council on Disabilities issued calls for the “Protection and Safety of Ukrainians with Disabilities.” USICD specifically calls for the full inclusion of Ukrainian organizations of persons with disabilities (OPDs) in rapid response teams and evacuation efforts stating that “Ukrainians with disabilities must not be forgotten, abandoned, and ignored.” Citing the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, which was ratified by Ukraine in 2010, Ukraine assumed protection obligations in the context of armed conflict to OPDs. USICD highlighted that they are especially concerned about the “negative impact on Ukrainian organizations of persons with disabilities as they work on response and the evacuation and protection of the several thousands of individuals living in group homes, orphanages, and institutions across the country. Their needs should be prioritized as State Parties and the international community rushes to respond with humanitarian aid and other support.” USICD urged Congress, Department of Defense, Department of State, and USAID, to work together on addressing the protection and human rights of Ukrainians with disabilities. Click [here](#) to read USICD’s statement.

Spotlight

UNICEF USA published the article, “What Kids Want Congress to Know”. In partnership with UNICEF USA Kid Power, they argued that children and youth have the right to have their voices heard when it comes to issues that affect them. They found that **two-thirds of American children feel excluded from policymaking and the political process.** Additionally, they found that **“53 percent of girls said they do not feel included in the U.S. political process, compared to 43 percent of boys.”** Having children and youth perspectives included in the policymaking and decision-making processes is critical because they “offer unique insight on the issues impacting them and children around the world. The contributions confirm that kids are paying attention to what is going on across the globe — and that they can be part of the solution.”

When UNICEF USA and UNICEF USA Kid Power asked children what they want Congress to know, they wrote the following:

“I think we never have war again. All it does is hurt people! Why do we even join wars?”

“I would want to make a new law it would be that people don’t be at war at the age ten.”

“I think there should be a law about females can go to school, because in some countries females can’t go to school and get an education! I think that is horrible and should be changed.”

UNICEF USA explained that “Children are counting on the leadership of adults to elevate their voices in the policy-making process. Advocacy must reflect the empathy and needs of children to create sustainable, positive impacts for children at home and abroad.” To read the full article, click [here](#).

Virtual Events

- Georgetown Institute for Women, Peace, and Security [virtual event](#) **“A Conversation with the 2022 International Women of Courage Awardees.”** March 30, 2022, at 10 am ET.
- Women’s Foreign Policy Group [virtual event](#) **“Countering Tech-Facilitated Gender-Based Violence and Intimidation.”** March 30, 2022, at 10 am ET.
- Global Campaign for Education (GCE) [virtual event](#) **“Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development side event: Build Back Equal for Adolescent Girls.”** March 30, 2022, at 1:15 am ET.
- Berghof Foundation [webinar](#) **“Gender-climate-conflict: Key Considerations for Sustainable Peace.”** March 30, 2022, at 9 am ET.
- World Health Organization (WHO) [virtual panel discussion](#) **“Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights of Indigenous Women, Girls and Gender-Diverse Communities Living with HIV in Nepal.”** April 4, 2022, at 9:15 am ET.
- Perkins School for the Blind [virtual event](#) **“Early Connections Conference.”** April 30, 2022, at 9 am ET.

Reports, Articles & Resources

- Global Fund for Children [article](#) **“‘This is my right’ – A participatory learning review of the ENA initiative, 2018–2021.”**
- Al Jazeera [article](#) **“The Taliban closes Afghan girls’ schools hours after reopening.”**
- Journal on Education in Emergencies [paper](#) **“Landscape Analysis of Early Childhood Development and Education in Emergencies.”**
- The Washington Post [article](#) **“War in Ukraine has forced half the nation’s children to flee their homes.”**

- Save the Children [report](#) “**The 6 Biggest Challenges Facing Children in 2022.**”

Professional Opportunity

USAID is seeking applicants for the Agency Senior Advisor on Youth. The Advisor works with USAID’s missions across the globe to improve development outcomes for and with youth. They are seeking applicants with leadership experience and technical expertise in successful global youth programming. To learn more about the position and apply, click [here](#).



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