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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. 78: Children’s Policy & Funding Initiative Presidential Letter and Youth Alliance Working Group, Biden Administration Budget Request, and the READ Act Reauthorization, Landmark CSA Case at Inter-American Court.**

April 4, 2022

## Quick Summary

Reps. Karen Bass and Chris Smith and Senators Dick Durbin and Marco Rubio reintroduced the **bipartisan, bicameral Reinforcing Education Accountability in Development (READ)** Act for an additional five years to expand access to basic education for children around the globe. READ Act was introduced with a 10-year reauthorization in both the House and Senate. This bipartisan effort was led by Reps. Karen Bass and Chris Smith and Senators Dick Durbin and Marco Rubio. “After years of acute learning loss brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic, millions of vulnerable children around the world have lost out on valuable educational opportunities and are confronting futures rife with violence and poverty. The resources provided by the READ

Act are now more important than ever,” said Senator Rubio. So far, the House reauthorization act has 14 co-sponsors and the Senate reauthorization act has one. To read the READ Act Reauthorization in the House, [click here](#). To read the READ Act Reauthorization in the Senate, [click here](#).

The Biden-Harris Administration released the **President’s Budget Request for FY2023**. In the request, the administration requested \$67.6 billion for the State Department and other International Programs. The Biden-Harris Administration also included nearly \$10.6 billion to support critical global health programs at the State Department and U.S. Agency for International Development. However, the request included a \$3.5 million cut towards funding UNICEF. To read the President’s Budget Request for FY2023, [click here](#).

The Children’s Policy and Funding Initiative is inviting **organizations to sign a letter to President Biden recommending that children and youth globally be prioritized in U.S. policy, funding, and programming**. For organizations to add their logo, **please complete the [form found here](#) by Friday, April 15, 2022**. The form also accepts submission of any questions, comments, or requests for critical red-line edits. The point of contact for this letter is Emily Davis, [EDavis@TidesCenter.org](mailto:EDavis@TidesCenter.org), Program Associate for the Children’s Policy and Funding Initiative at Tides Center. **To read the letter, click [here](#). To sign your organization onto the letter, click [here](#).**

The **Inter-American Court of Human Rights (IACtHR)** heard the case *Brisa De Angulo Losada v. Bolivia*. This is the **first time that the IACtHR will hear a case pertaining to the human rights violations of an adolescent victim of incest**. According to A Breeze of Hope, this case “provides the IACtHR with the opportunity to boldly expand and deepen jurisprudence on sexual violence against children and adolescents.” Brisa and her legal team are asking the court to “mandate Bolivia to develop a comprehensive strategy to address sexual violence, especially incest, including changing the rape law to one based on consent, broad prevention measures, and measures to ensure effective administration of justice based on guidelines that reflect international best practices.” To watch this historic hearing, [click here](#).

**The Children’s Policy and Funding Initiative held its first Youth Alliance Working Group meeting**. The goal of the working group is to provide the initiative with a practical way to ensure youth perspectives are part of the process. **It is critical that young people have a voice and a seat at the table in order to ensure they have input into decisions that impact their lives and to set an example for the USG**. Interns, Fellows, and young people from Search for Common Ground, InterAction, Global Campaign for Education-US, and ChildFund came together to discuss ways to

push for the prioritization of children and youth globally in U.S. policy, funding, and programming. To read more about the Children’s Policy and Funding Initiative Youth Alliance Working Group, click [here](#).

**Over 2 million refugee children have fled the war in Ukraine according to UNICEF.** UNICEF Executive Director Catherine Russell stated that “The situation inside Ukraine is spiraling. As the number of children fleeing their homes continues to climb, we must remember that every single one of them needs protection, education, safety, and support.” As of the publication of this article, children make up half of all refugees from the war in Ukraine. UNICEF also estimates that **more than 2.5 million children have been internally displaced within Ukraine**. Click [here](#) to read more about children and the war in Ukraine.

**The United Nations Secretary-General released its report on Youth, Peace, and Security** to the United Nations Security Council. The report stated that “Young women and men have continued to drive peace even though the impact of the pandemic has reinforced barriers and created new challenges for their meaningful participation in peace and security processes.” However, they emphasize that “The safety, security, and protection of young people has not improved: shrinking civic spaces, coupled with the impact of armed conflicts and the pandemic, have led to acute protection challenges requiring urgent action. Young people – young women in particular – are at risk of being left behind in terms of education, economic opportunities, health, and social protection during a crucial stage of their lives.” To read the report, click [here](#).

**The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) held its annual advocacy conference to elevate the needs of children.** The virtual event included remarks by First Lady Dr. Jill Biden; Secretary Xavier Becerra, Secretary of Health and Human Services (HHS); and Admiral Rachel Levine, MD, FAAP, Assistant Secretary for Health at HHS. . The conference sessions included workshops on “Current Issues for Children: What’s on the Agenda?” and “How to Speak Up for Children: Building Your Advocacy Skills.” AAP membership includes 67,000 pediatricians in all 50 states. While the advocacy conference focused primarily on domestic issues affecting children, the presentations and discussions extended to global concerns as well. To learn more about this event, click [here](#).

Funding Opportunities

**Ignite Philanthropy is calling for submissions for its Out of the Shadows Advocacy Grants: Ending Child Sexual Abuse.** They are specifically calling for “evidence-based advocacy interventions in the area of child sexual abuse (CSA).”

Funding will go to successful applicants for the implementation of advocacy and policy-influencing initiatives that will contribute to translating the Out of the Shadows Index (OOS) findings into concrete action at national, regional, and global levels. Grantee partners will be given support to advance initiatives that aim to advocate for change in specific policy and legislative areas. All applications are due on or before **1 pm ET on April 22nd, 2022**. Click [here](#) and [here](#) to learn more and apply.

**United States Department of State Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights and Labor (DRL)** announced an “open competition for organizations interested in submitting applications for a project that strengthens responsible youth engagement in the media and free flow of information in Hungary.” The goals of the funding are to (1) ensure that youth citizen journalists/content creators develop more professional and ethical journalistic practices and (2) increase their ability to identify and analyze fact-based, high-quality news and information. To learn more and apply, click [here](#).

#### Virtual Events

- 2022 Skoll World Forum [event](#) “**The Future of Women and Girls Rights in Afghanistan.**” April 6, 2022, at 12:30 pm ET.
- 2022 Skoll World Forum [event](#) “**Mobilizing Movements in the Modern World.**” April 7, 2022, at 10 am ET.
- 2022 Skoll World Forum [event](#) “**Protecting Children From Online Sexual Abuse in an Era of Digital Childhoods.**” April 8, 2022, at 8 am ET.
- 2022 Skoll World Forum [event](#) “**Power of Participation: Youth reimagining philanthropy.**” April 8, 2022, at 9 am ET.
- 2022 Skoll World Forum [event](#) “**For Every Child to Thrive, Do We Have An Intersectional Lens?**” April 8, 2022, at 10 am ET.
- 2022 Skoll World Forum [event](#) “**This should be normal: Educating Changemakers.**” April 8, 2022, at 9 am ET.
- 2022 Skoll World Forum [event](#) “**Climate Disruptors: Celebrating the Impact of Young Climate Activists.**” April 8, 2022, at 9:30 am ET.
- 2022 Skoll World Forum [event](#) “**Dynamics of Youth Empowerment and AI for Sustainable Development.**” April 8, 2022, at 10 am ET.
- 2022 Skoll World Forum [event](#) “**Climate Champions: Women, Youth, and Indigenous Peoples Leveraging Land.**” April 8, 2022, at 11 am ET.
- Foreign Policy [virtual dialogue](#) “**Mobilizing Financing for Inclusive Development.**” April 19, 2022, at 10:00 am ET.
- Brave Movement [virtual summit](#) “**Global Survivors Action Summit.**” April 27, 2022, at 9 am ET.

## Reports, Articles & Resources

- Keeping Children Safe [resources](#) on the “**International Child Safeguarding Standards (ICS Standards)**” in English and Ukrainian.
- Keeping Children Safe [online courses](#) “**Understanding Child Safeguarding.**”
- Georgetown University Collaborative on Global Children’s Issue [article](#) “**Innovating Protection for Children at Risk in the Americas.**”
- Onward for Afghan Women [article](#) “**Girls’ Education and Islam: A Divine Command With Historical Precedent.**”
- Onward for Afghan Women [article](#) “**Responding to the Taliban’s Reversal on Girls Education.**”
- 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.**”



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