
The Weekly Pulse

NEWS FROM ORGANIZATIONS AND COALITIONS IN GLOBAL CHILD ADVOCACY



Vol. 81: Sign-On Letters, Choose to Invest in Development and Humanitarian Action report for FY 2023, and The Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) Youth Forum.

April 25, 2022

Sign-On Letters

The Brave Movement is asking for signatories for their #BeBrave Global Call to Action. They state that “Our **#BeBrave Global Call to Action** draws on the demands from National Calls to Action, a G7 Call to Action, solidarity statements, and campaigns developed so far by Survivors and allies in 21 countries around the world, including Albania, Bolivia, Canada, Colombia, Democratic Republic of Congo, Ecuador, France, Germany, India, Italy, Japan, Kenya, Nepal, Nigeria, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, Spain, Tanzania, Uganda, United Kingdom, United States of America. Survivors and allies in many more countries are developing National Calls to Action that will be launched later this year.” Specifically, they are asking the global community for more justice,

investment, safety, and inclusion for survivors of child sexual abuse. To read the letter, click [here](#). To sign onto the letter, click [here](#).

Futures Without Violence is seeking signatories to their letter to Secretary Blinken and Administrator Power about their concerns for women and girls in Ukraine. They are asking to “help them by ensuring U.S. humanitarian funding and assistance prioritize their safety. Please, dedicate the resources needed to meet the needs of these women and children by providing financial support to women’s rights organizations and women human rights defenders who are providing frontline support to refugees and displaced people worldwide.” To read and sign the letter, click [here](#).

Quick Summary

InterAction published its annual Choose to Invest in Development and Humanitarian Action report for FY 2023. The report aims to “demystify what and how the U.S. Government funds overseas by providing information across 55 accounts funded through the annual appropriations process, primarily in the State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs Bill. We have also included programs on safeguarding international food security funded by the Agriculture Appropriations Bill and international labor and health protections funded through the Labor, Health, and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill.” Additionally, the report highlighted children and youth as a cross-cutting theme, emphasizing that “Children and youth constitute over half the world’s population and comprise the majority in many countries, yet are often an afterthought in funding and policy decisions. Global crises are disrupting the lives of young people and setting back decades of progress, even more so for those with underlying vulnerabilities due to their gender, disability, or socioeconomic status. **Given global crises, issues affecting children and youth need additional focus in foreign assistance to ensure that children are supported comprehensively as they grow.**” To read the report, click [here](#).

InterAction also sent a CEO sign-on letter about “Children and Youth and COVID” to the White House, USAID, State Department, the NSC, HHS, and CDC. The signatories emphasized that “at the March COVID-19 Summit, we urge you to put children and young people at the center of global, national, and local COVID-19 response plans.” Citing many statistics of the impact COVID has had on children and youth, the letter specifically highlighted that “**Shuttered schools, lockdowns, and disruption to services that protect girls mean an additional 2 million could suffer from female genital mutilation over the next decade. Similarly, 10 million additional child marriages may occur before the end of the decade as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.**” and “**COVID-19 spurred a 50% increase in internet use**

among children [aged 6-12 in the U.S.](#) alone, which has led to a rapid increase in the online sexual exploitation and abuse of children (OSEAC), among other negative impacts. The National Center for Missing and Exploited Children received nearly 22 million reports to its CyberTipline in 2020, a 28% increase from 2019.” Click [here](#) to learn more and read the letter.

The United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs NGO Branch is accepting applications for organizations to receive consultant status. The DESA NGO Branch is the focal point within the UN Secretariat for non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) and for NGOs seeking status. Inside DESA, we assist in facilitating NGO registration to the many subsidiary bodies of ECOSOC, such as the Commission for Social Development, the Rio+20 Conference, the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development, the Commission for Population and Development, the Commission on Sustainable Development, the UN Forum on Forests, and the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues. To learn more and apply, click [here](#).

Spotlight

The Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) Youth Forum was [held](#) last week to encourage young people to share best practices, lessons learned, solutions as well as creative and innovative ideas with the Member States, other youth, and stakeholders on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and also on the sustainable development goals under review in the Economic and Social Council and the High-level Political Forum in 2022. One of the key side events was “Empowered Youth Against Gender-Based Violence.” by the World Health Organization. Anna Rita Ronzoni- WHO- EMRO GBV Technical Officer went over what gender-based violence is and how the international health system can help in intervening when it is present.

First, she addressed the common reactions to gender and gender-based violence she witnessed. These reactions include “You again, what more do you want?”, “There are more pressing priorities”, “We’re good it’s all 50-50. Actually, women have more rights than men.”, “Feminists who want to emasculate men.”, “Academic, theoretical, boring.”, “Western concept”, “But what about men victims of GBV.” By understanding these common reactions, youth and future health systems leaders can understand why addressing gender-based violence is a “shadow pandemic.”

Second, she went over the definition of gender-based violence, which is “Gender-Based Violence is an umbrella term for any harmful act perpetrated against a person’s will, based on socially ascribed (gender) differences between males and females and it is

rooted in gender inequality and imbalance of power. GBV can be sexual, physical, psychological, and economic in nature, and includes acts, attempted or threatened, committed with force, manipulation, or coercion and without the informed consent of the survivor. A survivor is a person who has experienced GBV.” Using this definition, she emphasized that “30% of women globally have experienced physical &/or sexual violence by an intimate partner.”

Anna Rita Ronzoni also emphasized that gender-based violence starts early in the lives of women. According to the study “Lifetime prevalence of intimate partner violence by age group among ever-partnered women” (WHO, 2013), the prevalence of gender-based violence in girls between the ages of 15 and 19 is 29.4%. She explained that health providers and health systems have a critical role in supporting women, minimizing the impact, and preventing violence from happening. Women and girls experiencing violence are more likely to use health services. Health care providers are often women’s first point of professional contact. All women are likely to seek health services at some point in their lives.

To watch this side event, click [here](#).

Virtual Events

- Global Action Week for Education [virtual event](#) **“GAWE 2022 Launch Even_ ACEA Regional Policy Dialogue on Education in Emergencies in the Arab Region.”** April 25, 2022, at 7 am ET.
- Global Action Week for Education [virtual event](#) **“Education in emergency contexts in Latin America and The Caribbean: gender, debt & digitalization.”** April 26, 2022, at 10 am ET.
- Global Action Week for Education [virtual event](#) **“Protecting Education in Emergencies. A Regional Policy Dialogue on Education in Emergencies in Africa.”** April 28, 2022, at 8 am ET.
- Global Action Week for Education [virtual event](#) **“Equitable Access to Learning in Displacement: Taking Action Against Discrimination and Marginalisation.”** April 29, 2022, at 8 am ET.
- European Network on Independent Living – ENIL and Disability Rights International [virtual event](#) **“Children with disabilities from Ukraine’s institutions: Where are they now and what will they return to?”** May 5, 2022, at 9 am ET.
- InterAction annual event **“Forum 2022”** June 15-16, 2022.

Reports, Articles & Resources

- The Lancet journal [article](#) **“Measuring and monitoring child health and wellbeing: recommendations for tracking progress with a core set of indicators in the Sustainable Development Goals era.”**
- UNICEF and Washington University in St. Louis [report](#) **“I Was Not Safe in His House: The COVID-19 pandemic and violence against refugee and migrant girls and women in Italy.”**
- GATE [resource](#) **“Monitor Menstrual Health and Hygiene (MHH).”**
- Studies in Family Planning [article](#) **“Community Influences on Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting: A Comparison of Four Francophone West African Countries.”**
- Georgetown Institute for Women, Peace, and Security [report](#) **“Addressing Conflict-Related Sexual Violence Through Multilateral Sanctions.”**



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