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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. 82: First Focus Letter & COVID Event, USAID Child Care Event, and Funding & Professional Opportunity.**

May 2, 2022

Sign-On Letters

**First Focus on Children is asking for organizations to sign their letter to the Biden-Harris administration for a Presidential Proclamation Request for Children’s Week.** In the letter, First Focus highlights that “Unfortunately, in politics, their needs have often been considered an afterthought or overlooked completely by even the most well-meaning elected officials. Even worse, children are frequently invoked as political pawns to generate support for policies that do not actually serve their needs, but rather seek to create more division. Children’s Week is a great opportunity to correct these narratives. Through conversations, events, and other actions, we hope to use Children’s Week to uplift the needs of children and promote a positive children’s agenda.” To read and sign the letter by **May 4, 2022**, please click [here](#).

**The Brave Movement is seeking signatures to sign their petition “#BeBrave G7 petition - end sexual violence against children.”** The petition is calling on the G7 leaders, Joe Biden, Boris Johnson, Olaf Scholz, Emmanuel Macron, Justin Trudeau, Fumio Kishida, and Mario Draghi, to “Create a safe internet where children are free from sexual violence,” “Invest billions in their own countries, and in lower-income countries, to scale up prevention, healing, and justice programs,” and “Start genuinely listening to us by creating a G7 Survivors Council that advises on action to permanently end all sexual violence against children.” Click [here](#) to learn more and sign the petition.

### Quick Summary

**First Focus on Children held an event titled “Kids and COVID: A Conversation on Global Impacts” as a part of their Kids & COVID Conversation Series.** Speakers included Philip Goldman from Maestral International, Susan Hillis from the Center for Disease Control and Prevention, Jennifer Rigg from Global Campaign for Education, and Chrissy Hart, from Together for Girls. The group of expert panelists shared what unique challenges kids are facing around the world, including vaccine distribution, loss of caregivers, child labor, education, and violence against children. It was highlighted that currently [every 12 seconds](#), a child somewhere in the world loses a mother, father, or grandparent caregiver to COVID. Additionally, **160 million children are currently [involved in child labor](#)**, or 1-in-10 worldwide, and **79 million children 5-17 are doing “hazardous” work** — work that endangers their health, safety, or morals. It is also critical to point out that over **7 million children globally have [lost a caregiver to COVID](#)**, around **917,100** children have lost a caregiver [in India](#) alone. To watch this critical conversation, click [here](#).

**Secretary of State Anthony Blinken testified before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee for the Review of the FY 2023 State Department Budget Request.** In addition to the unfolding crisis in Ukraine, he stated that “We also face evolving challenges that require us to develop new capabilities, such as the emergence and re-emergence of infectious diseases, and accelerating climate crisis and a digital revolution that holds both enormous promise and peril.” Advocating for additional resources, he also stated that “If we want to deepen our capability in key areas like climate, pandemic preparedness, and multilateral diplomacy; expand on Secretary Powell’s vision of a foreign service training float; and equip our workforce with the training, tools, and technology that today’s challenges demand – we need additional resources.” Secretary Blinken also underscored the importance of flexible hiring authorities in order to address critical issues such as migration and climate change. To read and watch Secretary Blinken’s testimony, click [here](#).

## Funding Opportunity

### **FRIDA is accepting funding applications for feminist-forward organizations.**

FRIDA provides core, flexible funding for emerging grassroots groups led by young girl, women, trans, and/or intersex feminists working in alignment with FRIDA's principles. Groups can apply for a grant of USD 6,000 which can be used over a period of 12 months for general support and/or projects and is open to renewal. To learn more and apply, click [here](#).

## Professional Opportunity

**Oxfam is looking to hire someone for Senior Manager, Gender Justice & Inclusion Hub (GJ&I Hub) position.** This new leadership role will “oversee and ensure effective delivery of gender-transformative advocacy and programming across OUS thematic areas, bringing cutting-edge gender technical partnerships to advance results and meet the expectations of OUS’s 2030 Strategic Framework. This person will lead organization-wide gender programming, communications, and fundraising through establishing change processes that help develop staff and institutional capacity in gender integration. This person will gather and disseminate gender knowledge and skills across the organization through targeted gender integration and learning initiatives of other teams. This person will be responsible for developing effective communication plans to demonstrate the impact of gender integration efforts, working closely with those who develop metrics to assess progress and learnings.” To learn more and apply, click [here](#).

## Spotlight

**USAID held a virtual event titled “Incentivizing Investments in Global Child Care Infrastructure”** with critical speakers, including **First Lady Dr. Jill Biden, USAID Administrator Samantha Power, Melinda French Gates, and Mari Elka Pangestu from the World Bank.**

First Lady Dr. Jill Biden and Mari Elka Pangestu underscored that Quality, affordable child care has been out of reach for many around the world and that access to quality and affordable child care can lift entire economies. Pangestu addressed the question of why is it so important to prioritize child care, “It is because quality, accessible child care is among the most important investments that countries can make to build human capital, accelerate equality and place women at the center of an inclusive economic recovery.” She also highlighted that “**over 40 percent of children, or nearly three hundred and fifty million below primary school entry children do not have access**

**to child care” and “there are more than 600 million women today who are unable to go back to work due to childcare constraints.”** The World Bank Group plans on addressing this issue by implementing new policy commitments on childcare in their IDA 20 and launching a new childcare incentive fund that will support countries to design and implement better childcare programs, and policies, build capacity and generate data.

USAID Administrator Samantha Power and Melinda French Gates joined and discussed how governments and foundations are contributing to the World Bank Group’s new fund. Administrator Power stated that USAID will be intending “to provide 550 million over five years to the fund.” USAID plans on using its network around the world to be involved “in everything from supporting childcare services that are involved in everything from supporting care services for kids already trying to increase access to early learning opportunities.” Melinda French Gates echoed Administrator Power’s point by emphasizing that “Our foundation with five of their partner's Tulips, Hilton, Ford, Akina Lego are all together, putting \$27 million into this World Bank fund.” She also stated that “this coalition of governments like the ones in India or entrepreneurs like we saw with Kidogo, USAID money the bank’s money by having by working in partnership, we can measure, we can test, we can do innovative financing and we can scale.”

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

#### Virtual Events

- The Global Center on Adaptation, the Foundation for Environmental Education, and the Centre for Environmental Education [webinar](#) on “**Adaptation and Climate Resilience in Schools and Educational Settings.**” May 4, 2022, at 8 am ET.
- The Child, Early & Forced Marriage & Unions (CEFMU) and Sexuality Working Group and Global Affairs Canada [virtual event](#) “**The Child, Early & Forced Marriage & Unions (CEFMU) & Sexuality.**” May 4, 2022, at 9 am ET.
- USAID [virtual event](#) “**Generation 2030: USAID Celebrates Youth Partnerships.**” May 6, 2022, at 9 am ET.
- Center for Peace Advocacy and Sustainable Development and the Coalition [virtual event](#) “**Youth Action for UNSCR 2250 Implementation**” May 10, 2022, at 4 pm ET.
- GCE-US [virtual event](#) “**Inclusive Education and Early Childhood Community of Practice.**” with guest speaker [Katherine Guernsey](#), the Disability Rights Coordinator at USAID, who will discuss efforts to update USAID's [Disability Policy](#). May 13, 2022, at 11 am ET.

- Futures Without Violence [virtual event](#) “Engaging Men National Strategy Center Launch.” May 18, 2022, at 12 pm ET.
- **2022 Global Youth Economic Opportunities (YEO) Summit.** May 19, 2022, at 8 am ET.

#### Reports, Articles & Resources

- Academic [publication](#) “The Impact of the Securitization of Children and Armed Conflict in the United Nations Security Council on the United Nations System.”
- The Brave Movement [Op-Ed](#) “The Time is Now for G7 Leaders to Take a Stand to Protect Children from Sexual Violence.”
- GPE [article](#) “I am Brave so children can be safe’: A personal experience of violence in school.”
- White House [briefing](#) “FACT SHEET: U.S. Agencies Are Advancing the Human Rights of LGBTQI+ Persons Around the World.”



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