
The Weekly Pulse

NEWS FROM ORGANIZATIONS AND COALITIONS IN GLOBAL CHILD ADVOCACY



Vol. 83: Dangers Facing Children with Disabilities in Ukraine’s Orphanages, USAID Youth in Development Policy 2022-2030, & International Basic Education Letter.

May 9, 2022

Call to Actions

Global Campaign for Education-US is seeking help “stave off possible funding cuts and contact Senate offices in support of the **International Basic Education ‘Dear Colleague’ Letter** led by Senator Van Hollen **before the deadline May 13th**”. Here are resources and templates to make this engagement easy:

- A template email message is located [here](#) in the FY23 International Basic Education Appropriations Advocacy Action and Social Media Toolkit: <https://bit.ly/FY23GlobalEdu>
- Senate offices that signed this letter in previous years are included on this tracker's Senate [tab](#) along with staffer email addresses.

Please email Christa Giesecke (cgiesecke@gce-us.org) if you have any questions.

Global Campaign for Education- US also published an [FY23 Sign-On Letter](#) advocating against potential international basic education funding cuts. If you are interested in signing on or sharing with your networks, you can find the link [here](#).

Quick Summary

USAID launched its Youth in Development Policy 2022-2030 with the event “Generation 2030: USAID Celebrates Youth Partnerships.” This policy outlines its goals to “increase the meaningful participation of youth within their communities, schools, organizations, economies, peer groups, and families, enhancing their skills, providing opportunities, and fostering healthy relationships so they may build on their collective leadership.” USAID underscores the importance of including youth in development processes by stating that **“the voices and skills of 2.4 billion youth between the ages of 10 and 29 are critical to development work. Youth engagement and partnership offer leaders a chance to fully understand what it is like to grow up in today’s rapidly changing world. Instead of viewing youth as passive recipients, young people should be viewed as agents of their own development.”** The grantees of the Children’s Policy and Funding Initiative collaborated providing extensive feedback on this policy. To read the Youth in Development Policy 2022 Update, click [here](#).

The USAID event that launch the policy updated heard from many speakers and youth, including [USAID Administrator Samantha Power](#), U.S. House Representative [Grace Meng](#), U.S. House Representative [Dean Phillips](#), [Yuliya Tkachuk](#) from Irex, and [Imrana Ahaji Buba](#) who is the Founder of the Youth Coalition Against Terrorism (YOCAT). Administrator Power stated that “While it is indeed true that young people often unfairly bear the consequences of mistakes made generations before, it is indeed true that young people around the world face unthinkable suffering, for example, today in places like Ukraine, Yemen, Ethiopia, to betray them as helpless is not just untrue factually, it is offensive. **The truth is young people have always been active participants and those of the people around them from World War to civil rights movements to grassroots revolutions around the world, young people have one decisive battle and expanded the reach of justice. Young people have shaken the halls of power. Young people have brought down dictators and driven some of history's most iconic shapes. Today's young people under the age of 30 make up over half of the world population. They lived through pandemic and harness the power of social media for landmark and international policy.**” To rewatch this event, click here.



USAID also announced its plan to invest \$50 million in Global Child Care Infrastructure. This goal furthers President Biden’s “global infrastructure initiative announced at the Carbis Bay G7 Summit last year. The multi-stakeholder fund will generate at least \$180 million over the next five years to support child care in low-and middle-income countries. Other partners include the Governments of Canada and Australia, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, the Conrad N. Hilton Foundation, Echidna Giving, the Ford Foundation, the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation, and the LEGO Foundation.” The investment emphasized the importance of developing high-quality care infrastructure worldwide to boost child development, women’s labor force participation, and economic growth. Additionally, the Administration emphasized that the lack of affordable and accessible child care options leaves many children, particularly those who are already in vulnerable situations, in unsafe and unstimulating environments. To read the announcement, click [here](#).

CPFI’s Youth Alliance Working Group

The Children’s Policy and Funding Initiative is seeking interns, fellows, and youths to join their Youth Alliance Working Group. This youth working group is comprised of fellows, interns, and young people from the organizations that are part of key organizations to help provide partners 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 U.S. Government.** Click [here](#) to learn more

about this working group. To apply to become a member, please click [here](#). If you have any questions, please contact Emily Davis at edavis@tidescenter.org.

Spotlight

Disability Rights International held an event on “Children with disabilities from Ukraine’s institutions: Where are they now and what will they return to?” to launch their report titled “Left Behind in the War: Dangers Facing Children with Disabilities in Ukraine’s Orphanages.” The speakers included Halyna Kurylo, Director of the Ukraine Rapid Response Team at Disability Rights International; Marianna Onufryk from SOS Children's Villages Ukraine; Mariya Yasenovska, President of the KRF Public Alternative; Marlee Quinn, Inclusive Humanitarian Action Global Specialist at the Global Protection Cluster; Jonas Ruskus, Vice-Chair of the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities of the United Nations; and Eric Rosenthal, the founder and Executive Director of Disability Rights International.



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xor7lrwumSw>

Halyna Kurylo kicked off the event by sharing what they found during their recent fact-finding mission to multiple children’s institutions. They found that “Those with the most high care needs children made a decision when the war broke out to shelter in place. Those are places in different regions -- and those under Russian occupation, and many more. And because of their high complexity and needs in terms of the movement

of these children and the accessibility of the place that would host them, they decided it was safer for them to stay in place.” Additionally, they found that **“the research, especially at the beginning of the war, was that there was virtually no organized data collection on who went where, when, and who stayed.”**

Marianna Onufryk echoed Kurylo’s concerns by stating **“I am afraid that after the war, our families, our children, that are the future of Ukraine, won't be ready to come back to Ukraine if we won't develop services there.”** She recommended that the international community needs to immediately start collecting data on children with disabilities who are either still in the country or are now abroad.

Marlee Quinn highlighted the issue of evacuating children with disabilities. She stated that **“there aren’t the resources in place to be able to support children in institutions who have high care needs and to be able to safely evacuate them and support them in situations of displacement.** We are finding at the moment that local authorities are very cautious around supporting these kinds of movements because safety throughout the evac pathway can't be assured. Also, there is a lack of space in the West of Ukraine and in other places, and a lack of resources to support these children in displacement.” She also emphasized that “particularly children who are not able to mobilize themselves, not visible physically in the community they are currently residing in, tend not to access humanitarian services.”

Eric Rosenthal closed out the event by recapping that **“children with disabilities have been fundamentally dehumanized. They are not treated as full people”** and “we need to see a political commitment from the Government of Ukraine and international donors to work together on a transformation and commitment to ending the Ukrainian institutional system.” He also highlighted that **Disability Rights International’s visit and report on Ukraine was broadcasted by BBC during a primetime report.**



<https://www.bbc.com/news/av/world-europe-61325277>

In the coinciding report, Disability Rights International and its partners found, amongst many atrocities and human rights violations, that “children with greater impairments face the largest brunt of increased dangers. **DRI investigators observed children tied down, left in beds in near-total inactivity, and held in dark, poorly ventilated rooms that are so understaffed that they are enveloped in smells of urine and feces.** Children rock back and forth or self-abuse as a result of years of emotional neglect. The staff has no resources or knowledge about how to respond to this behavior other than to restrain them for much of the day.” To read the full report, click [here](#).

Virtual Events

- **White House Second COVID-19 Summit.** May 12, 2022.
- End Child Prostitution and Trafficking (ECPAT) [virtual event](#) “**Building a Movement For Justice: A Conversation with Sara Kruzan and Cori Thomas.**” May 12, 2022, at 6 pm ET.
- 5Rights Foundation [virtual event](#) “**Global Child Online Safety Toolkit.**” May 16, 2022, at 12 pm ET.
- Transforming Children’s Care [webinar](#) “**The Legal Framework of Orphanage Trafficking: Cambodia, Nepal, and Uganda.**” May 17, 2022, at 8 am ET.
- **2022 Global Youth Economic Opportunities (YEO) Summit.** May 19, 2022, at 8 am ET.

Reports, Articles & Resources

- The National Democratic Institute (NDI) [article](#) “**Empowering Young Climate Activists mean Reimagining Political Power.**”
- USAID Higher Education Learning Network (HELN) [toolkit](#).
- PLOS Global Public Health [publication](#) “**Measurement tools and indicators for assessing nurturing care for early childhood development: A scoping review.**”
- **Ukraine Parenting [resources](#).**
- **The Brave Movement [Newsletter](#).**
- The Malala Fund [report](#) “**Rights in Jeopardy: How the international community should respond to the girls’ education crisis in Afghanistan.**”
- Education Cannot Wait (ECW) [brief](#) “**Advancing gender equality and girls’ education in emergencies and protracted crises — A call to action to *Empower Her.***”
- The Oak Foundation, Together for Girls & the Equality Institute [report](#) “**What Works to Prevent Sexual Violence Against Children.**”
- Restless Development [report](#) “**Youth Power in a Pandemic: State of Youth Civil Society Report 2022.**”

Professional Opportunities

The United Nations Girls’ Education Initiative is seeking applicants to join the “Feminist Civil Society and Young Feminist Activist Education Coalition.”

Members will “meaningfully work with UNGEI as partners in UNGEI’s 2023 - 2027 Strategic Planning process” and “support, convene and facilitate the meaningful participation and leadership of this coalition in the UN Secretary-General’s Transforming Education Summit (TES).” This coalition will “harness the power of collective action to make a unified impact on TES. The outcomes of this collective action will then influence UNGEI’s 2023-27 Strategic Planning, with the opportunity to establish long-term partnership and collaboration through becoming members of the UNGEI Global Advisory Committee.” To learn more and apply, click [here](#).

Youth Power 2 is seeking youth to join the Youth Lead Ambassador Program. It is “designed for young changemakers making a positive impact in their community through service, activism, advocacy, education, and entrepreneurship.” Youth Lead Ambassadors will “design and implement leadership projects on critical issues impacting young people. These include youth-led learning events that contribute to knowledge, skill-building, local engagement, and peer-to-peer networking. Ambassadors also contribute their ideas on how to make the platform more relevant to

changemakers in our network to the YouthLead team.” To learn more and apply, click [here](#).

Grant Opportunity

USAID and Youth Excel are seeking applications for its global grant competition for its Youth Excel: Our Knowledge, Leading Change program. They are seeking “solutions from local youth led-organizations around the globe to advance peace and security through local-level social cohesion. Grant competition winners will also use gender equality and social inclusion, research-to-change (implementation research), and knowledge mobilization approach to strengthen their programs and influence decision-makers.” To learn more and apply, click [here](#).



Copyright © 2021 Tides Center, All rights reserved.