
The Weekly Pulse

NEWS FROM ORGANIZATIONS AND COALITIONS IN GLOBAL CHILD ADVOCACY



Vol. 84: Children’s Policy & Funding Initiative POTUS Letter, White House 2nd COVID-19 Summit & Thrive Coalition Positive Parenting Event.

May 16, 2022

Quick Summary

The **Children’s Policy and Funding Initiative sent a joint letter to the White House and to several Cabinet officials** encouraging the President “to launch a global initiative that prioritizes children and youth globally and offers specific recommendations for U.S. policy, programming, and funding.” The letter outlines a common-sense approach for lasting impact by ensuring that children and youth are elevated – regardless of their location – and that their needs are prioritized. . The letter has 58 signers including large and small foundations, advocacy groups, and service organizations that are youth-led, represent affected communities overseas, involve persons with disabilities, or lead large coalitions and networks domestically and internationally. The letter signals broad support for US leadership and an interest in partnering with the Administration to make the recommendations a reality. The Initiative

is encouraging wide use and circulation of the letter to facilitate advocacy with the US government and Congress for impactful action and investments in children and youth globally. To read the letter, click [here](#).

The White House held the 2nd COVID-19 Summit this past week in conjunction with the governments of Belize, Germany, Indonesia, and Senegal. The summit's focus was on vaccinating the world but also on related areas that need urgent attention.

President Biden's opening remarks emphasized the need to beat the global pandemic, vaccinate the world, save lives now and build back better health security. Additionally, he highlighted that **“Around the world, many more millions have died. Millions of children have been orphaned. And with thousands still dying every day, now is the time for us to act — all of us — together.”** President Biden announced that the United States will be expanding dose donation types to include boosters and pediatric doses to accelerate global vaccine coverage. The U.S. will now “include boosters and pediatric doses, as part of our 1 billion Pfizer dose donation commitment. **This will help accelerate progress towards the 70% vaccination target and expand the availability of doses available for those at highest risk and for children globally.**” To read the full transcript of President Biden's remarks, click [here](#).

Leading up to this White House summit, **UNICEF sent a joint letter to the co-hosts focusing on the secondary harms of the COVID-19 pandemic.** The letter highlights the economic, political, and social priorities that were worsened because of the COVID-19 pandemic. The letter was signed by Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, Director-General, the World Health Organization; Catherine Russell, Executive Director, UNICEF; and CEOs from civil society organizations. The letter states that “The actions set out by the Summit co-hosts will go a long way to addressing the financing and policy gaps that are currently holding back the COVID-19 response. Ending the pandemic in 2022 requires global leadership. Collectively, richer countries must fully fund the ACT-Accelerator's US\$15 billion financing gap, while all countries must commit to national policies and strategies that optimize our ability to control the pandemic, both nationally and globally. The pandemic will not end until access to vaccines, tests, treatments, and PPE is achieved for everyone, everywhere.” To read their statement, click [here](#).

USAID released its 2022-2030 Climate Strategy with six targets; mitigation, natural and managed ecosystems, adaptation, finance, country support, and support for critical populations. Grantees of the Children's Policy and Funding Initiative worked together to influence this policy and ensure it includes youth. The climate strategy specifically mentioned youth in Intermediate Result 1.5 stating that it wants to “Enable and

empower women and youth and other marginalized and/or underrepresented groups to lead climate action...A successful approach to climate programming recognizes that their leadership, knowledge, and skills are vital to addressing the climate crisis. Successful climate action should also take an intersectional approach that recognizes that many elements of a person's identity can affect how they experience the world." Additionally, the climate strategy outlines that "Youth (ages 10-29) have emerged in recent years as key actors in mobilizing large-scale awareness, demanding government action to tackle the climate crisis, running educational programs, promoting sustainable lifestyles, conserving nature, supporting renewable energy, adopting environmentally friendly practices, and implementing adaptation and mitigation projects. Youth are also critical in adopting new technologies and practices to address climate change. They have increasingly strong social and environmental awareness and are engaging as leaders in movements to transform our societies toward a net-zero and climate-resilient future. Youth populations represent an evolving demographic that with time will include today's infants and young children (ages 0-9) who are particularly affected by climate." Specific actions that USAID will implement through the Climate Strategy include:

- Supporting behavior change and communications campaigns that help increase acceptance of young people's meaningful participation, activism, and leadership on climate action and education.
- Recognizing the growing importance of a broad range of climate-related mental health conditions among youth.
- Increasing our financial and technical resources for youth-led organizations, enterprises, and networks to enable a leadership role in addressing the climate crisis.
- Creating tangible economic opportunities for youth in climate-friendly industries.
- Supporting the empowerment of youth organizations.

Click [here](#) to read the full USAID Climate Strategy 2022-2030.

The Thrive Coalition held a community discussion on Positive Parenting, including speakers Kuri Chisim, the Adolescent Programme Lead at BRAC; Bertha Mpepo, the Program Director of the Family Strengthening Unit at CRS Zambia; and Benjamin Perks, the Head of Campaigns & Advocacy /Senior Advisor at UNICEF Division of Global Communications & Advocacy. All speakers emphasized the importance of family strengthening, cultural healing, and how to address child abuse. Perks emphasized the importance of the "return on investment argument about making parenting programs universal." To view the event, click [here](#) and use the passcode **zEY9k&Lf**.

Spotlight

The Georgetown Institute for Women, Peace and Security held a [virtual event](#) titled “Ensuring Accountability for Sexual Violence in Conflict” where they launched their [report](#) on “Addressing Conflict-Related Sexual Violence Through Multilateral Sanctions.” Moderated by **Amb. Melanne Vermeer**, Executive Director, Georgetown Institute for Women, Peace, and Security, the event addressed the issue of conflict-related sexual violence (CRSV) and how international mechanisms, including sanctions and prosecution, can be best applied to make a tangible difference in the lives of women and girls in conflicts around the world.

The first speaker, **The Honorable Pramila Patten**, United Nations Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict, explained that **“Civilians, especially women and girls, bear the brunt of volatility and violence.”** She highlighted that targeted sanctions are a key tool to mitigate and prevent conflict-related sexual violence and that “these recommendations have only been implemented sporadically, and can even be applied as a powerful UN charter-based tool sanctions of a significant yet still largely untapped tool.”

Lynn McDonald, Director General for International Economic Policy, Global Affairs Canada, spoke about how Canada, the United States, United Kingdom, and European Union are working together to prevent conflict-related sexual violence through sanctions. She stated that “Canada is eager to explore these recommendations alongside our like-minded partners and you all, and we sincerely hope that continued dialogue in this sphere will lead to reduced impunity for conflict-related sexual violence and greater support to countries such as Myanmar, and creating a more just, equitable, and peaceful future.”

The following speakers included **Wai Wai Nu**, Founder and Director, Women’s Peace Network from Myanmar, and **Oleksandra Matviychuk**, Human Rights Activist and Chair, Center for Civil Liberties from Ukraine. Both echoed the need for coordinated financial penalties and economic sanctions. Lastly, **Dr. Robert Nagel**, Postdoctoral Research Fellow, Georgetown Institute for Women, Peace, and Security and the main author of the report, presented the key findings of the report and underscored that the main issues are impunity and the lack of accountability. Dr. Nagel proposed that “as national governments revised the Women, Peace, and Security national action plans to also revise their human rights-based sanction regimes.”

To learn more about this event, click [here](#). To read the published report, click [here](#).

Virtual Events

- Lumos, Changing the Way We Care, USAID, GHR Foundation, MacArthur Foundation [virtual event](#) **“Putting Child and Youth Participation at the Heart of Care Reform: Launching a New Manual to Support Practitioners.”** May 16, 2022, at 10 am ET.
- WHO and UNICEF [virtual event](#) **“Global Report on Assistive Technology”** May 16, 2022, at 4 pm ET. Passcode: GReAT2022.
- Manchester Metropolitan University, Family for Every Child, Maestral, Makerere University, Changing the Way We Care [webinar](#) **“Global Studies of Childhood: Separated Childhoods Webinar Series - Valuing Lived Experience of and Local Practices Towards Childhood Separation.”** May 18, 2022, at 9 am ET.
- Women Deliver [virtual event](#) **“The Impact of COVID-19 on SRHR: Youth-led Perspectives and Solutions for a Gender-Equal World.”** May 18, 2022, at 8:30 am ET.
- The Coalition on Adolescent Girls First Members’ [Meeting](#). June 2, 2022, at 8:30 am ET.
- End Violence Against Children [virtual event](#) **“Together to #ENDviolence Leaders’ Event.”** June 14, 2022, at 8 am ET.

Reports, Articles & Resources

- UNICEF **Adolescent Data [Portal](#)**.
- Ofsted [study](#) **“Why Do Children Go Into Children’s Homes?”**
- Psicothema [study](#) **“Mental Health, Quality of Life and Coping Strategies in Vulnerable Children During the COVID-19 Pandemic.”**
- Journal of Public Child Welfare [report](#) **“Impact of COVID-19 on the Educational Experiences of Youth in Foster Care: Caseworker Perspectives.”**
- European Parliament [resolution](#) on **“EU Protection of Children and Young People Fleeing the War Against Ukraine.”**
- Caminar Latino – Latinos United for Peace and Equity [resource](#) **“National Center to Advance Peace for Children, Youth, and Families.”**



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