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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. 87: First Focus Legislative Scorecard, Youth Alliance Working Group, & United Nations held the 90th session of the Committee on the Rights of the Child.**

June 6, 2022

Call to Action

**USAID's Center for Education is developing education and climate technical guidance** to receive “feedback on integrating climate action, resilience, and mitigation across the education continuum”. They will conduct a series of consultations with virtual stakeholders **either Tuesday, June 21, or Thursday, June 23. Please RSVP by completing [this Google Form](#) by Wednesday, June 8.**

**The Brave Movement will have its Global Day of Action on June 9th, 2022.** They will be asking G7 leaders to be brave and listen to their demands, specifically “calling out the systemic corruption that enables the sexual abuse of children and adolescents, tainting the places where violence takes place to ensure that institutions, perpetrators, and global leaders who facilitate abuse can no longer hide in plain sight.” Around the

world, survivor advocates will be putting up purple commemorative plaques to remember survivors of childhood sexual violence, holding rallies outside embassies, and writing letters to ambassadors to ask them to be brave. Get lots of tips and tools in this [#BeBrave Global Day of Action Toolkit](#). In the toolkit, you'll see draft language for the social media templates of the purple commemorative plaques. To learn more about the Brave Movement, click [here](#).

## Quick Summary

**First Focus published its 117th Congressional Champions & Defenders for Children Legislative Scorecard.** The Champions including 120 members of both the House and Senate “have repeatedly used their legislative roles to raise, lift, and move to the forefront those issues that are important for America’s children. Champions consistently pursue policies and legislation that **make children a priority** across the full array of issue areas. Defenders more often than most consider and take action that supports the best interest of children in a number of votes and by sponsoring or cosponsoring bills.” Along with naming 120 Members of Congress as Champions and Defenders for Children, First Focus also lists key bills that benefit children. Many pieces of legislation that are listed are created or supported by the grantees of the Children’s Policy and Funding Initiative. To find the full list of Champions & Defenders for Children, click [here](#). To read the whole report, click [here](#). You can also use First Focus’ Bill tracker, which can be found [here](#).

**Education Cannot Wait (ECW) opened a call for proposals to help promote inclusive education.** The purpose is to “pilot or deliver initiatives and services that promote inclusive education, particularly by ensuring that the preconditions for education access and learning for girls and boys of all ages with disabilities are in place. By piloting or delivering these interventions and services, the RFP will develop globally-relevant public goods and evidence that can be used to expand access to quality education in emergencies and protracted crises. As such, the focus of the current RFP is on programmatic work while knowledge products and tools are a desirable output that would result from implementation.” To learn more and submit your proposal, click [here](#).

**Representatives from the Children’s Policy & Funding Initiative Youth Alliance Working Group met with various offices of Members of Congress.** They discussed the Initiative, the Youth Alliance Working Group, the Letter to the President, and the tentative working draft of the proposal for a Congressional Caucus on Children and Youth Globally. The Youth Alliance Working Group is very excited about the interests and opportunities that have been presented. It is critical for young people to have their

voices heard and to provide input into decisions that impact their lives, and for civil society to set an example for engagement. To learn more about the Youth Alliance Working Group, click [here](#). If you are a youth who is interested in joining the Youth Alliance Working Group, please fill out the form [here](#).

## Spotlight

**The United Nations held the 90th session of the Committee on the Rights of the Child.** In the opening statement, the High Commissioner for Human Rights [Michelle Bachelet](#) underscored the impact the COVID-19 pandemic has had on children, from violence, health, and education to climate change. She stated that “In the last two years, nearly 150 million children missed more than half of their in-person school, amounting to 2 trillion hours of lost **learning**. Two-thirds of the world’s school-aged children could not access online education during school closures because they did not have Internet access at home. And this continues: UNICEF estimates that 23 countries – home to more than 200 million schoolchildren – have yet to fully open schools, putting many children at risk of dropping out.” Additionally, “In Afghanistan, Myanmar, Ukraine, Yemen, and other **conflict-afflicted areas**, children continue to suffer the most serious consequences of war. Killings, injuries, suffering, and trauma. They are separated from their families. Their homes are destroyed and their education is interrupted or discontinued entirely. Their daily lives and routines are utterly shattered.”

UNICEF also gave an opening statement, which focused on the positive achievements UNICEF has achieved this past year. They highlighted that they supported “48.6 million out-of-school children – including 6.4 million children on the move and 31.7 million children in humanitarian settings – to access education; reaching 335.9 million children with services to prevent stunting and other forms of malnutrition; prevention and care interventions to 7.6 million adolescent girls at risk of child marriage through joint programming with UNFPA; and expanding access to safe water and basic sanitation, reaching 69.9 million people with the former and 59.6 million with the latter over the 2018-2021 period.” However, they also acknowledged the difficulties in defending children’s rights, recalling that “in previous sessions, the resolution on the rights of the child crystalized much polarization and triggered intense negotiations around children’s status as rights holders, independently of their parents or guardians. Mentions of child participation and gender-related language, including references to gender-based violence, were other issues of contention as well as references to sexual and reproductive health (and rights) and terminology around the ‘multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination.’”

Another important speaker was [Mikiko Otani](#), the Chair of the Committee on the Rights of the Child who focused on the atrocities that are currently happening to children in Ukraine. They stated that “Universal realization of rights of every child in all countries is far from reality. Denial and violation of children’s rights are occurring everywhere. Pandemic, conflict, climate change and various crises exacerbate existing discrimination, poverty, and structural problems and disproportionately affect children, in particular, in developing countries and in vulnerable situations. The mandate entrusted to our Committee is enormous.”

To read more about what was discussed during this session, click [here](#).

### Virtual Events

- Save the Children, Child Rights Connect, UPR Info, Child Rights Coalition Asia, Plan International, Global Partnership to End Violence Against Children, Institute for Statelessness and Inclusion, CRIC Moldova, Defence for Children International, the Forum des ONG of Ivory Coast, the Right to Education Initiative, CIPRODENI, and REDNNyAs [virtual event](#) **“How to Advance Children’s Rights using Recommendations from United Nations & Regional Monitoring & Review Processes.”** June 9, 2022, at 9 am ET.
- Global Studies of Childhood, Manchester Metropolitan University, Family for Every Child, Maestral, Changing the Way We Care, and Makerere University [virtual event](#) **“Separated Childhoods Webinar Series: Identity, belonging and culture in childhood separation.”** June 9, 2022, at 11 am ET.
- InterAction [event](#) **“Trailblazers of Today: U.S. Foreign Assistance & the Impact of Youth Engagement.”** June 14, 2022, in Rayburn HOB 2044. **RSVP by June 7, 2022.**
- Elevate Children Funders Group [virtual event](#) **“Weaving a Collective Tapestry: Launching the new Funders’ Toolkit for Child and Youth Participation.”** June 21, 2022, at 9 am ET.
- Global Studies of Childhood, Manchester Metropolitan University, Family for Every Child, Maestral, Changing the Way We Care, and Makerere University [virtual event](#) **“Separated Childhoods Webinar Series: Valuing lived experience of and local practices towards childhood separation.”** June 22, 2022, at 9 am ET.
- **The United Nations Transforming Education [Pre-Summit](#).** June 28-30, 2022.
- **The United Nations Transforming Education [Summit](#).** September 19, 2022.

### Reports, Articles & Resources

- The World Health Organization [report](#) **“The Global Report on Assistive Technology (GReAT).”**
- Save the Children [article](#) **“Ukraine: Twice as many schools attacked in the past 100 days as during the first 7 years of conflict.”**

- Thrive Online [article](#) “**Cyberspace needs to be a safe space – for all of us.**”
- Gender-Based Violence Area of Responsibility [report](#) “**Armed conflict in Ukraine: GBV resources and materials that can support GBV humanitarian response (2022) (Includes resources in Ukrainian).**”
- UNICEF [report](#) “**I was not safe in his house: The COVID-19 pandemic and violence against refugee and migrant girls and women in Italy.**”
- Voice [article](#) “**Waiting for the Sky to Close: The Unprecedented Crisis Facing Women and Girls Fleeing Ukraine.**”



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