
The Weekly Pulse

NEWS FROM ORGANIZATIONS AND COALITIONS IN GLOBAL CHILD ADVOCACY



Vol. 92: Devex & The Hill Op-Eds, G7 Summit Final Communique, and How to Child Rights Event.

July 11, 2022

Call to Actions

The Children and Youth Community is asking organizations to sign onto the [FY24 Children and Youth Community OMB Letter](#) no later than Friday, July 15th. The letter is open for organizational and coalition sign-on. This year's letter does not include specific funding level recommendations but instead focuses on the need for greater prioritization, coordination, and transparency in funding for young people through foreign assistance. Once the letter is finalized, all sign-on organizations and coalitions will have the opportunity to participate in a meeting with OMB to discuss shared and individual priorities. Thank you for considering adding your organization to the letter as a key part of our push for a commonsense whole-of-government approach for children

and youth in foreign policy. [Sign your organization on here by 7/15](#) and read the letter [here](#).

The **International Children with Disabilities Protection Act** of 2022 will soon be introduced by **Senator Robert Menendez, Chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee**. Disability Rights International (DRI) and the U.S. International Council on Disabilities (USICD), which has spearheaded this bill, are seeking organizations to [endorse](#) the bill. This bill will establish a grant-making fund within the U.S. Department of State to:

- **create a small grants program** to support leadership and advocacy by people with disabilities and their families to protect the full inclusion of children with disabilities in society – and to prevent unnecessary institutionalization;
- **promote advocacy skills** and leadership by people with disabilities and family members of the children and youth with disabilities so that such individuals can participate in their local, regional, and national governments to bring about policy reforms, legal protections, and programs to support family inclusion of children with disabilities;
- **promote laws, policies, and funding programs that strengthen families** and protect against the institutionalization of children with disabilities;
- **assist countries abroad** in developing policies and social supports to protect families and ensure full inclusion of children with disabilities.

If your organization is interested in endorsing this bill, please fill out the Google form [here](#). If you have any questions, please contact Eric Rosenthal at erosenthal@driadvocacy.org or Isabel Hodge at lhodge@usicd.org.

USAID will hold a series of virtual consultations on its [U.S. Government Strategy for Basic Education for FY19 - FY23](#) throughout August and September. They stated that “While we do not anticipate major shifts in the Strategy’s overall goals or direction, this is an opportunity to update our approach and account for changing global conditions, new U.S. Government priorities, and evidence and lessons learned from the current Strategy. To attend these consultations [fill out this input and feedback form](#) by July 13.

Quick Summary

Devex published an Op-Ed titled “Opinion: Decisions shaping our world should consider children first” by [Kelly Case](#), the Project Director for the Children’s Policy and Funding Initiative at Tides Center. The article noted that children and youth are suffering disproportionately because of the three “big C’s”: conflict, COVID-19,

and climate. For example, “in 2019, [1 billion children](#) worldwide suffered at least one severe deprivation of life’s necessities”. Additionally, she highlighted that “an estimated [6.7 million children](#) have lost a parent or caregiver to COVID-19, [1.8 billion children](#) live in countries where violence prevention and response services have been severely disrupted, and the risks of child sexual abuse and severe malnourishment affect countless more children and youths who have been displaced by conflict.” Kelly offered 3 key areas of focus including to establish or strengthening senior leadership in all spheres of the U.S. government, by equipping decision-makers with resources and authority to ensure government-wide coordination that prioritizes children and youths globally; to elevating children and their interests in all policy and funding decisions it will be necessary to establish mechanisms to improve tracking and reporting of agency actions and expenditures, and to engage young people directly in consultations. To read the Devex op-ed, click [here](#).

The Hill published an Op-Ed titled “The time has come to end abuse and exploitation online” by [Erin Kennedy](#), the Senior Director for External Engagement at ChildFund. Erin emphasized that U.S. President Biden signed “[a Presidential Memorandum](#) establishing the White House Task Force to Address Online Harassment and Abuse. Focusing on “illegal conduct,” including cyberstalking, online abuse linked to child sex abuse material and trafficking, this task force is an essential step to curb abuse children face.” She also highlighted the timing of this announcement, stating that “It is interesting that this announcement comes on the heels of a [global convening](#), where hundreds of leaders gathered to discuss the urgent crisis of online sexual exploitation and abuse of children (OSEAC). Notably, the United States was largely absent at the event, making no new commitments.” She hopes that the task force will work with young people, Congress, and civil society to develop robust standards that place the best interests of children and youth at the center. Currently, reports of suspected online sexual exploitation of children [increased 73 percent from 2019 to 2021 according to NCMEC](#) and UNICEF reports that [80 percent of children fear sexual abuse or exploitation online](#). To read the Hill op-ed, click [here](#).

The Homeland Security for Children Act ([H.R. 4426](#)), which requires the Department of Homeland Security to ensure that the needs of children are considered in homeland security planning, was signed into law. First Focus on Children sent a letter to the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas thanking him for his focus on the best interests of the child within DHS. The letter also asked the Secretary to act to implement the bill by adopting child impact statements for department policies and designating high-level leadership on children’s issues within the agency, citing that “similar to analyses the federal government currently uses, child impact statements are a tool to systematically ask fundamental questions about a policy, program, or activity’s outcome on children’s best

interests. Using child impact statements, DHS can put in place an intentional and systematic structure to place children's rights, views, and needs in the foreground of its policies and plans. Additionally, child impact statements advance both the bill's mandate and the Administration's whole-of-government approach to advance equity and support to underserved communities." Click [here](#) to learn more and to read the letter.

The G7 Final Communiqué highlighted the need to address child sexual abuse, both online and offline. It stated that "The pandemic, the war against Ukraine, and further international conflicts, including in Afghanistan, have exacerbated the threat of trafficking in human beings, aimed at sexual and labor exploitation and abuse, particularly of children and women. **We commit to step up our fight against trafficking in human beings and our efforts to prevent and combat child sexual abuse and exploitation globally, both online and offline.** We ask our Interior Ministers to take forward the implementation of the Action plan to combat Child Sexual Exploitation and Abuse from September 2021." Click [here](#) to read the communiqué.

Spotlight

The 2022 High-Level Political Forum side event "How to Advance Children's Rights Through the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG)" was held for the fulfillment of children's rights as a prerequisite to meeting the SDGs, and to emphasize the importance of SDGs as drivers for the protection, respect, and fulfillment of children's rights under the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC). The 2030 Agenda recognizes children as 'agents of change' and emphasizes the importance of their right to participate in SDG implementation and accountability processes. Children's participation is critical for the successful implementation of the 2030 Agenda and for achieving sustainable development for all. Also, the SDG monitoring and review processes at the national, regional, and global levels provide States and civil society with a crucial opportunity to drive accountability for children and to ensure that their voices are included in policy decisions.

During this event, Save the Children and How to Children Rights released its new guidance "**How to use the Voluntary National Review to Advance Children's Rights.**" Presented by [Lilei Chow](#), the Policy and Advocacy Lead for Inclusive Governance and Accountability at Save the Children UK, this guide examines the potential and the practicalities of using SDG accountability mechanisms and processes to advance children's rights at different levels and for different advocacy purposes. It is aimed at child-focused organizations as well as other civil society actors working on SDG accountability. It may also be relevant for academia, UN agencies, and State authorities with an interest in Voluntary National Reviews. The tool provides "**Provides step-by-step information on the SDG Accountability Framework for your**

advocacy at the national, regional, and global levels,” promotes a “holistic approach to monitoring and accountability between various UN human rights frameworks, national legislation, etc on Child Rights and the SDGs,” tips on “how to engage children in the whole VNR cycle,” and how to “report meaningfully on the Pledge to Leave No One Behind.” To read the resource, click [here](#).

Events

- The Coalition for Good Schools and the Children’s Institute and Raising Voices [virtual event](#) “**Moving Forward Together to Prevent VAC [Violence Against Children] at School.**” July 13, 2022, at 7 am ET.
- The Early Childhood Development Action Network (ECDAN) [virtual event](#) “**Investing in Equitable Childcare Services for All.**” July 14, 2022, at 9 am ET.
- GCE [virtual event](#) “**HLPF The Human Right to Education: Sustainable Development Force.**” July 14, 2022, at 8 am ET.
- GCE-US Hill [event](#) “**Global Education Advocacy Day.**” July 19, 2022.
- GCE-US [virtual event](#) “**Inclusive Education and Early Childhood Community of Practice Meeting.**” July 20, 2022, at 9 am ET.
- United Nations [event](#) “**#YouthLead Innovation Festival – International Youth Day Celebration**” August 12-13, 2022.
- GCE-US [virtual event](#) “**Global Campaign for Education-US Coalition Meeting.**” August 16, 2022, at 9 am ET.

Reports, Articles & Resources

- UNICEF [press release](#) “**Staggering scale of grave violations against children in conflict revealed in new UNICEF analysis.**”
- **G7 2022 Elmau Progress [Report](#).**
- **G7 Dashboard on Gender Gaps 2022- the USA [report](#)**
- USAID and Momentum [infographic](#) “**How to Engage Men in Nurturing Care Across the Life Stages.**”
- Devex [report](#) “**People with disabilities left behind during the war in Ukraine.**”
- InterAction [article](#) “**Trailblazers of Today: U.S. Foreign Assistance and the Impact of Youth Engagement.**”
- The Alliance for Child Protection in Humanitarian Action [report](#) “**The Impact of COVID-19 School Closures on Child Protection and Education Inequalities in Three Humanitarian Contexts.**”
- First Focus on Children [report](#) “**Fact Sheet: Voters Strongly Support Making Investments in Our Children and Grandchildren.**”
- Development Compass [presentation](#) “**Spring Series 2: Communicating Aid with the U.S. Public.**”



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