
The Weekly Pulse

NEWS FROM ORGANIZATIONS AND COALITIONS IN GLOBAL CHILD ADVOCACY



Vol. 96: The Children’s Safe Welcome Act, Washington Post Op-Ed, & USAID Policy Framework: Draft for Comment virtual event.

August 8, 2022

Quick Summary

The Children’s Safe Welcome [act](#) was introduced by Senators [Jeff Merkley \(D-OR\)](#), [Kirsten Gillibrand \(D-NY\)](#), [Dick Durbin \(D-IL\)](#), and Representative [Karen Bass \(D-CA\)](#). The bill “establishes new standards to ensure that the safety and well-being of migrant children in government custody are prioritized, embedding best practices into every stage of our immigration system involving unaccompanied and accompanied noncitizen children who seek asylum in the U.S.” Among other things, the bill will “**Codify minimum child welfare protections such as health and safety standards, state licensing requirements, and the best interests of the child standard.**” This bill is also co-sponsored by Senators [Brian Schatz \(D-HI\)](#), [Elizabeth](#)

[Warren](#) (D-MA), [Edward J. Markey](#) (D-MA), [Bernie Sanders](#) (I-VT), [Mazie Hirono](#) (D-HI), [Dianne Feinstein](#) (D-CA), [Patty Murray](#) (D-WA), [Ron Wyden](#) (D-OR), [Jacky Rosen](#) (D-NV), and [Bob Casey](#) (D-PA). Click [here](#) to read the full introduced bill.

First Focus President [Bruce Lesley](#) co-wrote an opinion piece in the Washington Post titled “For young and old, the pandemic was upending.” The opinion piece highlighted the very intense struggles both young and old people went through. He noted that “White House coronavirus response coordinator Ashish K. Jha appeared anything but ambitious when he said, ‘The thing I would not be okay with is saying, okay, let’s go back to normal.’” Bruce highlighted that going back to normal is not ambitious and that we need to continue striving for more assistance for children. He emphasized that going back to normal would be detrimental to children and “is congressional gridlock that will cut the share of federal spending on children to pre-pandemic levels.” He called on Government leaders **“to make ‘ambitious’ the new normal. We owe our children at least that much.”** To read the full op-ed, click [here](#).

The International Conference on Birth Defects and Disabilities in the Developing World (ICBD) is calling for abstracts for its annual conference. Conference topics include “Surveillance, clinical and public health professionals, high-level policy and program personnel from ministries of health, and professional, research and non-governmental associations and organizations working in the field of maternal child health—specifically birth defects and disabilities.” Abstracts can be submitted as an oral presentation, performed panel presentation, or as a poster presentation. **Submissions are due September 30, 2022.** To learn more and submit an abstract, click [here](#).

Spotlight

USAID held a Q&A virtual session on its “USAID Policy Framework: Draft for Comment.” This was an opportunity for civil society and the NGO community to come together to ask questions and give real-time feedback to USAID on its policy framework. [Michele Sumilas](#), **the Assistant to the Administrator of the Bureau for Policy, Planning, and Learning at USAID** kicked off the event by outlining the purpose of the policy framework. The purpose is to “lay out the Administrator’s vision for international development and for USAID; translate goals of the U.S. National Security Strategy, Department of State and USAID Joint Strategic Plan, and other overarching U.S. foreign policy for USAID; articulate USAID’s approach to development cooperation and the policy, program and operational priorities that follow from it; connects dots among major policy initiatives--new and established--and across sectors and types of assistance, in a unified framework; and speak to multiple audiences: USAID staff, implementing partners, partner-country governments, other collaborators, fellow donors, multilateral

organizations, interagency counterparts, Congress, the wider development community, and the public.”

[Aaron Roesch](#), the Team Lead for Foreign Policy Engagement in the Office of Policy at USAID then outlined the proposed policy framework. The framework has three main sections: Confront the Greatest Challenges of Our Time, Prioritize Progress Beyond Programs, and Invest in USAID's Enduring Effectiveness. When answering a question about how USAID prioritizes certain challenges, he stated that “I think it's difficult to prioritize because they are themselves so interrelated and not only are other challenges interrelated, but I think the approaches that we take to them are as well. We want to be very intentional about how they overlay and our approaches to them and be more integrated.”

Additionally, [Michele Sumilas](#) emphasized the need for feedback from the community noting that “I think one of the things that we will be doing in terms of the implementation plan is also talking about how we can improve and how we can integrate other priorities into those that are outlined here. So for example, you probably don't see as much as you would like, and we'll get lots of comments to be more forward-leaning on gender. We see gender as a cross-cutting issue that should be central to every issue that we work on, whether it's placement or education, or global health.” The finalized USAID Policy Framework will be released this fall.

To learn more and read the proposed USAID Policy Framework, click [here](#).

Events

- What Works to Prevent Violence [webinar](#) **“What Works to Prevent Violence: Impact at Scale - Webinar, and Q&A for Innovation grants (Concept Note).”** August 8, 2022, at 7 am ET.
- LEAP Africa [event](#) **“Youth Day of Service 2022.”** August 12, 2022.
- Global Campaign for Education-US (GCE-US) monthly [virtual meeting](#) **“Global Campaign for Education-US Coalition Meeting.”** August 16, 2022, at 9 am ET.
- Global Fund for Children [virtual event](#) **“The Youth Spark: A Transition to Youth-focused Grantmaking.”** August 18, 2022, at 9 am ET.
- Suojellan Lapsia ry/Protect Children [webinar](#) **“Developments in Offender-Focused Prevention of OCSEA.”** September 5, 2022 at 9 am ET.
- Devex [live stream event](#) **“Devex @ UNGA 77.”** September 21-22, 2022 at 8 am ET.

Reports, Articles & Resources

- ChildFund [policy brief](#) “US foreign policy recommendations for children and youth affected by conflict.”
- PLAN International [publication](#) “World Hunger and its Impact on Girls.”
- The Lancet Public Health [editorial](#) “A last taboo in public health.”
- Human Rights Watch [article](#) “Afghanistan: Economic Crisis Underlies Mass Hunger.”
- BBC News Africa [YouTube video](#) “The Chadian activists fighting teen pregnancies and other stories.”
- **#BeBrave Movement G7 [Scorecard](#)**
- End Violence Against Children [article](#) “Guiding policy to protect the millions of children displaced by climate change.”
- Equimundo, the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), & International Men and Gender Equality Survey (IMAGES) [report](#) “International Men & Gender Equality Survey (IMAGES): A Global Report in 15 Headlines.”

Youth Opportunity

#CovidUnder19 2022 - 2023 Child Advisory Group is seeking members to join their advisory group. This is an opportunity for 13 to 17-year-olds to join a joint virtual initiative for “children, young people, and civil society to uphold children's rights during covid, with an emphasis on meaningful child participation.” Nominations are open until August 15, 2022, and nominees will be announced by September 1, 2022. To learn more and apply, click [here](#).



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