
The Weekly Pulse

NEWS FROM ORGANIZATIONS AND COALITIONS IN GLOBAL CHILD ADVOCACY



Vol. 97: Children's Interagency Coordinating Council, International Youth Day 2022, & Biden's Africa Agenda.

August 15, 2022

Call for Proposals

The Summit Secretariat for the [UN Transforming Education Summit](#) has launched a **Call for Proposals** for sessions and events that will take place during the **Summit Solutions Day on September 17, 2022**. All proposed sessions and events should be explicitly linked to one of the [five TES Thematic Action Tracks](#). Please use [this form](#) to submit proposals by the deadline: **Thursday, August 18, 2022, 5 pm ET**. If you have any questions, please email tes.actiontrack@unesco.org.

Quick Summary

Both the U.S. House and Senate have expressed interest in a Children’s Interagency Coordinating Council through language in the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and the Education, and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill, 2023. In the [House version](#), the bill stated that “Children’s Interagency Coordinating Council.—The Committee notes that the COVID–19 pandemic has contributed to a further decline in the economic standing, education, and physical and mental health status of low-income children...The Committee supports collaboration among HHS, the Department of Energy, the Department of Justice, the Department of Agriculture (USDA), **the United States Agency for International Development, and other Federal agencies to address these pressing problems. To foster greater coordination, collaboration, and transparency on child policy across agency lines, the Committee again directs the Secretary to establish a Children’s Interagency Coordinating Council.** Among other tasks, the Council shall enter into an agreement with the National Academy of Sciences to provide an annual report to Congress analyzing and monitoring how existing and emerging Federal policies have affected child poverty using the U.S. Census Bureau Supplemental Poverty Measure. In addition, the Council will examine and periodically report on a broad array of comprehensive and cross-cutting issues affecting child wellbeing.”

The [Senate version](#) had very similar language but added that “**The Committee supports collaboration among HHS, DOE, DOJ, USDA, and other Federal agencies to address these problems. In order to foster greater coordination and transparency on child policy across agencies, the Committee includes \$3,000,000 to establish a Children’s Interagency Coordinating Council.** Among other tasks, the Council shall enter into an agreement with NASEM to prepare a report to Congress analyzing Federal policies that have affected child poverty. The study should rely on the Census Bureau Supplemental Poverty Measure, among other sources of information. In addition, the Council will examine and periodically report on a broad array of cross-cutting issues affecting child well-being.” Click [here](#) to read the House version, and click [here](#) to read the Senate version.

U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken gave a speech during his trip to South Africa on the Biden Administration’s Sub-Saharan Africa Strategy and spoke on a wide array of topics, including girls and youth. First, he highlighted the work the Biden administration has been doing globally for girls and youth stating that “At the G7 meeting just recently held, President Biden led in launching the Partnership for Global Infrastructure and Investment, which will mobilize \$600 billion globally toward concrete projects over the next five years. **The United States is committed to raising \$200 billion towards this effort, and we’re already implementing projects that are focused on health, on digital infrastructure, empowering women and girls, energy,**

and climate.” Additionally, he emphasized the importance of youth leadership, stating that “Consider youth. Yesterday, I met with alumni of the Mandela Washington Fellowship. Since President Obama launched the program eight years ago, more than 5,000 rising leaders from every country in Sub-Saharan Africa have come to the United States for academic and leadership training – building skills and, as important, relationships that will last a lifetime. **The broader YALI Network, which provides tools, resources, and a virtual community for young African leaders, now has more than 700,000 members.**” To read the full speech, click [here](#).

European Union (EU) Commissioner for Home Affairs Ylva Johansson wrote an opinion piece titled “Children deserve protection and privacy” emphasizing the importance of the European Data Protection Board and the European Data Protection Supervisor adopting a Joint Opinion on the Proposal for a Regulation to prevent and combat child sexual abuse. The proposed legislation “strikes the right balance between the various fundamental rights concerned, in particular in view of the serious nature of child sexual abuse...The proposal aims to prevent further cases, not just to detect them. The mitigating measures have the fundamental aim of protecting children from the further circulation of images and videos showing their abuse and from being groomed into abuse. They also allow a service provider to potentially avoid a detection order if their infrastructure is deemed to be robust enough to lower the risk of online child sexual abuse below a significant level.” However, she also explains that “what frustrates me most is that there is a risk of advocates creating opposition based only on abstract concepts. Abstract notions based on misunderstandings. What I am concerned about is the very real, very shocking, effects of child abuse: On the child, on the adults they grow up to be, and on society as a whole.” To read the full opinion piece, click [here](#).

International Youth Day

International Youth Day was this past Friday, August 5, and organizations from all over the world highlighted the need and importance of elevating youth voices, including grantees of the Children’s Policy and Funding Initiative.

The Youth, Peace, and Security (YPS) Coalition launched a social media campaign highlighting youth voices and underscoring the importance of YPS. Posts include critical facts about youth globally and youth voices. You can follow the social media campaign on [Twitter](#) @us_ypscoalition. If you are interested in learning more about the Youth, Peace, and Security Coalition, click [here](#).

#YES4YPS
U.S. YPS COALITION

@us_ypscoalition

“ Young people are change-makers and activists in their own right. We often think of them as the leaders of tomorrow, but they are already working around the world to strengthen their communities. For me, this day is a reminder to celebrate their tenacity and passion, and to resolve to continue progressing the Youth, Peace, & Security agenda. ”

Meghana Srikrishna
Youth, Peace, & Security Fellow, Search for Common Ground

LeaveNoOneBehind
IYD2022

United Nations
INTERNATIONAL
YOUTH DAY

2022
INTERGENERATIONAL
SOLIDARITY

#YES4YPS
U.S. YPS COALITION

@us_ypscoalition

“ The youth is the hope of our future. Without empowering the youth of our country, we cannot think about progressing and growing. It is your energy, your thought, and your karma that will define the tomorrow. Let's break the bias by creating a world for all ages. ”

Ayesha Mahmood
Executive Director, Youth For Pakistan

LeaveNoOneBehind
IYD2022

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1 IN 4 YOUNG PEOPLE AROUND THE WORLD LIVE IN CONFLICT-AFFECTED AREAS. BUT THEY ARE ALSO IMPORTANT ACTORS IN PEACEBUILDING.

#youth4peace

LISTEN TO YOUNG PEOPLE.

INCLUDE YOUNG PEOPLE IN PEACEBUILDING PROGRAMMING.

HONOR YOUNG PEOPLE'S DIGNITY AND EXPERIENCES.



#YES4YPS
U.S. YPS COALITION

@us_ypscoalition

“ Children and youth are often an afterthought in policymaking. IYD 2022 means that young people have their voices heard and can provide input into decisions that impact their lives, and to set an example for engagement with all generations. ”

Emily Davis
Research Associate for the Children, Policy & Funding Initiative of Tides Center

LeaveNoOneBehind
IYD2022

United Nations
INTERNATIONAL
YOUTH DAY

2022
INTERGENERATIONAL
SOLIDARITY

ChildFund, World Vision, Global Campaign for Education-US, and partners held a virtual event “Girls LEADING A Brighter Future: A Special Policy Briefing on the Girls Leadership, Engagement, Agency, and Development (LEAD) Act.” Hosted by [Danielle Lilly](#), the Senior Policy Advisor at ChildFund, spoke about the importance of the Girls LEAD Act, and these messages were echoed in a [YouTube video](#) by the Girls LEAD Working Group.

The first speaker was [Dr. Patricio Cuevas-Parra](#), the Director of Child Participation and Rights at World Vision. He presented his work titled “**Learning from Child Activism: Stopping Child Marriages in Bangladesh and Ghana.**” Currently, in Bangladesh, “51% of girls are married by the age of 18 and 18% by the age of 15, which means that 38 million are married before the age of 18 years (UNICEF, 2020a).” In Ghana, “19% of girls married as children, with 2,300,000 married before the age of 18

years and, of those, 600,000 were married before the age of 15 years (UNICEF, 2020b).” His research aimed to “explore the processes and outcomes of the work of child activists in Bangladesh and Ghana from the perspective of the child activists, (potential) child brides, and community members.” Through interviews and questionnaires, he found that there was a considerable investment of children in time, emotional energy, and commitment and that reciprocity of intergenerational relations is built over time. Children were also “committed to their cause to protect girls from being married off. Child and youth spaces provided the information tools to influence their communities and key adult stakeholders.”

[Kasapo Chibwe](#), a Global Health Policy Advisor from World Vision, and [Leila Milani](#), the Program Director for Global Policy & Advocacy from Futures Without Violence introduced youth advocates. **Sarafina from Ghana** discussed her work preventing child marriage and rescuing girls from violence. She highlighted that there are so many laws to prevent child marriage, but it is still very present. She called on leaders to change the mindset of people to make sure they understand that this is a form of violence against children. [Malaika Amin](#) from Pakistan spoke on the patriarchal society that she experienced as a child. She joined the Tae-kwon-do club as a young child before she was considered a “girl”. As she grew up, she broke down societal norms that were imposed on her, continued her training, and explored other sports such as volleyball. Through volleyball, she was able to come to college in the U.S. The Girls LEAD Act to her means that girls like her are able to achieve their dreams.

[Megan Ekstrom](#), the Senior Manager in Global Government Relations and Public Policy at Procter & Gamble (P&G) echoed the importance of the private sector recognizing youth leadership and engagement. She emphasized that girls from around the world need the resources to thrive and, through that, can boost different sectors of the economy. The passage of the Girls LEAD Act is critical because it requires the participation of girls in USAID and State department activities. Congressman [David Trone](#) (D-MD) gave some pre-recorded remarks and introduced the Girls LEAD Act in the House noting that we need to do more for children, girls, and women.

To learn more about this event, click [here](#).

Events

- Communities at the Heart of UHC, Financing Alliance for Health, Living Goods, Pathfinder, and partners [virtual event](#) **“When Young People Lead, Communities are Stronger.”** August 16, 2022, at 8 am ET.
- The Global Coalition on Youth, Peace, and Security Working Group on Climate [webinar](#) **“Youth Perspectives on the Climate and Peacebuilding Nexus.”** August 16, 2022, at 9:30 am ET.

- Alliance for Peacebuilding and Search for Common Ground [webinar](#) **“AfP's Digital Peacebuilding Community of Practice: Access. Collaboration. Impact. Finding What ConnexUs.”** August 16, 2022, at 11 am ET.
- USAID, FHI360, Lead, the Panafrikan Climate Justice Alliance (PACJA), PATH Foundation Philippines, and the African Institute for Development Policy (AFIDEP) [virtual event series](#) **“Making the Case for the FP/RH and PED Intersection.”** August 16-18, 2022.
- The Georgetown Institute for Women, Peace, and Security [virtual event](#) **“Islam and Women's Rights in Afghanistan.”** August 17, 2022, at 9:30 am ET.
- Pandemic Action Network, the Center for Indonesia's Strategic Development Initiatives (CISDI), the Eastern Africa National Networks of AIDS Service Organisations (EANNASO), and WACI Health [virtual event](#) **“Civil Society Organization (CSO) Consultation for the Pandemic Prevention, Preparedness, and Response Financial Intermediary Fund (FIF).”** August 17, 2022, at 11 am ET.
- Keeping Children Safe [event](#) **“Ethical Issues in Research and Programming with Young Adolescents: A talk by Robert Wm. Blum MD, MPH, Ph.D. Director - Professor, Johns Hopkins Urban Health Institute - Department of Population, Family and Reproductive Health.”** September 7, 2022, at 1:30 pm ET.
- The George Washington Institute Building GBV Evidence program [virtual event](#) **“Finding the Path Forward: Examining Approaches to Address GBV among Displaced Adolescent Girls in the Global South.”** September 8, 2022, at 10:30 am ET.
- The United Nations Association of the United States [virtual event](#) **“InterGenerational Model U.N.”** October 21, 2022.

Reports, Articles & Resources

- The New Humanitarian [op-ed](#) **“Unfreeze Afghan assets or more hungry children may die: With international monitoring and more trust in Afghanistan's central bank, there is a path forward.”**
- YouthPower2 [blog post](#) **“Political Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities: Reflecting on What Works.”**
- Girls Not Brides [article](#) **“How Indigenous women and young people say we should address child marriage, together.”**
- Partnership Against Child Exploitation (PACE) [virtual tool](#) **“Tackling child labor in fragile states: three approaches.”**
- Child Safety Pledge [Youtube Video](#) **“How to be a safe adult. A Child Safety Pledge Teaching Moment, 1-1.”**
- National Democratic Institute [article](#) **“Speak Youth to Power.”**

- Global Campaign for Education [video](#) “GCE Youth & Students celebrate #InternationalYouthDay2022.”
- Transforming Education Summit (TES) Discussion [Paper](#) "Thematic Action Track 1: Inclusive, equitable, safe, and healthy schools."
- Transforming Education Summit (TES) Discussion [Paper](#) "Thematic Action Track 2: Learning and skills for life work."
- Transforming Education Summit (TES) Discussion [Paper](#) "Thematic Action Track 3: Teachers, teaching, and the teaching profession."
- Transforming Education Summit (TES) Discussion [Paper](#) "Thematic Action Track 4: Digital learning and transformation."
- Transforming Education Summit (TES) Discussion [Paper](#) "Thematic Action Track 5: Financing of education."



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