

The Weekly Pulse

NEWS FROM COALITIONS AND NETWORKS IN GLOBAL CHILD ADVOCACY



Quick Summary

U.S Youth, Peace and Security(YPS) Coalition is working with Representative Susan Brooks's office to find her replacement as a co-sponsor for the [YPS bill](#) in the House. Search for Common Ground's Youth, Peace and Security Advisor, [Mena Ayazi](#), is currently asking for champion suggestions who may be interested in the YPS bill. The Coalition is also awaiting the introduction of the YPS bill to the senate and are engaging Senator Marco Rubio as the Republican co-lead.

Joan Lombardi of Early Opportunities and Philip Goldman of Maestral International are asking for endorsements for a [memorandum](#) to members of the USAID and Biden Administration team requesting that the appointment of the new Special Advisor on the Children in Adversity be expedited. The reason for the request is that the position is critical to managing the U.S government's response to COVID-19's growing impact on children. The deadline for endorsement is **Dec. 9 2020** and must include name of endorser, title, organization.

Thrive Coalition finalized their [Transition Documents](#) for the Biden- Harris Administration. Some of their recommendations include the convening of a White House Commission and a Global Conference on Children in 2022, convening donors and stakeholders to develop a long-term strategic plan to prioritize ECD globally, and significantly expanding funding for U.S foreign assistance programs impacting young children and their families.

Virtual Events

ALLIANCE FOR PEACEBUILDING'S [PEACECON 2020](#) **DEC. 7-9**

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 ECDAN'S HARNESSING GLOBAL DATA TO ADVANCE YOUNG CHILDREN'S LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT WEBINAR **DEC.10 8:30AM-10:00AM EST**

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 U.S YPS COALITION'S [CONGRESSIONAL DIALOGUE](#): CODIFYING YOUTH, PEACE AND SECURITY IN U.S FOREIGN POLICY **DEC.10 AT 9AM ET**

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 BEC'S SUPPORTING THE RETURN TO SCHOOL [WEBINAR](#) **DEC. 9 11AM EST**

16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence

From November 25th to December 10th, gender-based violence activists have been participating in the [U.N.'s 16 days of Activism Against Gender-based Violence](#) (GBV). This campaign advocates for global action regarding GBV, including "the bridging of funding gaps, insuring essential services for survivors of violence during the COVID-19 crisis, focusing on prevention, and the collection of data that can improve life-saving services for women and girls." Here are two bills in Congress fighting against GBV globally:

[Safe from the Start/ Keeping Women and Girls Safe from the Start](#)

This Act would keep women and girls safe from violence, early marriage, and other gender-based violence in emergency contexts including the COVID-19 pandemic. The bill seeks to expand Obama Administration [Safe from the Start](#) Department of State and USAID action plan to address GBV in humanitarian assistance. Expansion includes the training of more humanitarian personnel on GBV, deploying gender advisors, developing the technical skills of local organizations, establishing standards and guidelines to address GBV and expanding women's empowerment activities. Supporters include: World Vision, CARE International, Futures Without Violence and Mercy Corps.

- **Status:** Senator Robert Menedez (D-NJ) introduced S.4003 [Keeping Women and Girls Safe from the Start Act of 2020](#) in the Senate on June 18, 2020. The bill is in the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations with 9 cosponsors (8D, 1R). It's House companion bill, [Safe from the Start Act of 2019](#), was sponsored by Representative Grace Meng (D-NY) on July 30, 2019 and is in the House Foreign Affairs Committee with 48 co-sponsors (37D, 11R).

[The Keeping Girls in School Act \(KGISA\) 2019-2020](#)

KGISA is designed to ensure that U.S. foreign assistance addresses the barriers that keep more than 130 million school-aged girls around the world out of school. It is designed to complement the [U.S. Global Strategy to Empower Adolescent Girls](#) by 1. tackling the barriers through results based financing, 2. strengthening the evidence based school-interventions pushing back on harmful gender norms, 3. ensuring that schools are safe for all children, 4. making secondary school affordable and 5. separating out education data by gender to better improve targeted interventions for girls. Supporters for this legislative effort include: Plan International USA, ICRW, Basic Education Coalition, Girls Not Brides, RESULTS, UNICEF and World Vision.

- **Status:** The [House](#) version of KGISA (HR 2153) was [re-introduced](#) by Representative Frankel (D-FL) and Representative Susan Brooks (R-IN), with 116 other co-sponsors, and was passed on Jan 28, 2020. The [Senate](#) version (S.1071) was introduced by Senator Jeanne (D-NH) on April 9, 2019 and is currently in the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

Highlight Issue: U.S Child Marriages



Throughout the 16 days of Activism, the call to end child marriage in the U.S. has been loud. **UNICEF USA** and **Zonta International** highlighted their [Stop Child Marriage Now](#) initiative which raises awareness of Child Marriage in the U.S. **Al Jazeera** hosted a live Instagram panel on child marriage in the U.S. **ICRW** released their [report](#) stressing the limited data regarding the issue and the need for future research to focus on the causes of and mechanisms to prevent child marriage in the U.S.