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DES DROITS DES ENFANTS

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BUREAU  
FOR CHILDREN'S RIGHTS

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LOS DERECHOS DEL NIÑO

المكتب الدولي لحقوق الطفل

# Newsletter on Children's rights in Sub-Saharan Africa

*November 2016*

Submitted by: International Bureau for Children's Rights (IBCR)

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## 1. Global Development on Children and Human’s rights

### **[News] Indigenous children 10 times more likely to be removed from families – report**

9<sup>th</sup> of November 2016- Indigenous children are more than 10 times more likely to be removed from their families by child protection authorities than other Australian children, a new report says, prompting calls

for urgent action. A report launched on Wednesday by the Family Matters coalition, which comprises more than 150 Indigenous organisations and academics, has found the number of children removed from their families will triple over the next 20 years. The figure has led a Family Matters co-chair, Gerry Moore, to call for the commonwealth and state governments to develop a program to address the causes of family removals.

[Full article](#) (The Guardian)

### **[News] Child trafficking victims disappearing from UK care at 'alarming' rate**

14<sup>th</sup> of November 2016 - Child trafficking victims and unaccompanied children are going missing from local authority care at an “alarming” rate according to a new report, which reveals that in one year, nearly 30% of all UK child trafficking victims and 13% of unaccompanied children disappeared from care services. New research by child trafficking NGO Ecpat UK and the charity Missing People has found that 167 of the 590 children suspected or identified as child trafficking victims in the year from September 2014 to 2015 vanished from foster and care homes across the country. An additional 593 of the 4,744 unaccompanied children placed under the protection of local authorities also went missing at least once in the same time period. Of the 760 trafficked or unaccompanied children who disappeared from care, 207 have never been found.

[Full article](#) (The Guardian)

### **[Nouvelles] Journée mondiale de l'enfance: deux cents écrivains de renommée mondiale s'unissent autour des droits de l'enfant**

4 novembre 2016 – Plus de 200 éminents écrivains, parmi lesquels des romanciers, des dramaturges et des poètes, se sont associés cette semaine à une campagne littéraire mondiale en rédigeant des « petites histoires » d'environ sept lignes visant à célébrer la Journée mondiale de l'enfance et à rappeler l'injustice à laquelle sont encore confrontés les enfants les plus pauvres et les plus défavorisés de la planète. Cette série de nouvelles marque le début de la commémoration des 70 ans que l'UNICEF a consacrés à apporter de l'aide et de l'espoir à chaque enfant. Certains des écrivains les plus célèbres du monde partageront sur les réseaux sociaux leurs nouvelles avec leur public. Ce concept, qui a été lancé par la première dame finlandaise Jenni Elina Haukio, a ensuite été repris à travers le monde par des écrivains originaires d'Asie, d'Afrique, d'Amérique du Sud, d'Europe, du Moyen-Orient et d'Australie.

[Article complet](#) (UNICEF)

### **[Nouvelles] La pneumonie et la diarrhée tuent 1,4 million d'enfants chaque année, plus que toutes les autres maladies infantiles cumulées**

11 novembre 2016 – La pneumonie et la diarrhée tuent chaque année 1,4 million d'enfant, vivant pour la très grande majorité dans des pays à revenu faible et intermédiaire. La mort de ces enfants survient malgré le fait que ces deux maladies sont largement évitables grâce à des solutions simples et rentables comme l'allaitement exclusif, la vaccination, des soins de santé primaires de qualité et la réduction de la pollution de l'air à l'intérieur des habitations. Ces conclusions sont rassemblées dans un nouveau rapport de l'UNICEF, Un décès, c'est déjà trop : en finir avec les décès d'enfants par pneumonie et par diarrhée, publié aujourd'hui.

[Article complet](#) (UNICEF)

## **[Nouvelles] Un mois après le passage de l'ouragan Matthew, près de 600 000 enfants attendent toujours de l'aide**

4 novembre 2016 – Un mois après que l'ouragan Matthew a frappé Haïti de plein fouet, près de 600 000 enfants ont toujours besoin d'aide humanitaire et sont tenaillés par la maladie, la faim et la malnutrition, déclare aujourd'hui l'UNICEF. « Un mois après le passage de l'ouragan, la vie n'a toujours pas repris son cours normal pour plus d'un demi-million d'enfants haïtiens », affirme le Représentant de l'UNICEF en Haïti, Marc Vincent. « Trop d'enfants souffrent de la faim et sont sans abri, incapables d'aller à l'école et en danger. Nous renforçons notre réponse et sommes résolus à en aider le plus grand nombre possible, dans les plus brefs délais ».

[Article complet](#) (UNICEF)

## **[News] Fears for 6,000 children as some camps on Greek islands soar to triple their capacity**

14<sup>th</sup> of November 2016 - An estimated 6,000 children living in detention centres and camps on the Greek islands are at risk with facilities on four out of five islands overflowing, Save the Children warned ahead of US President Barack Obama's visit to Athens on 15 November. With most new arrivals detained on the islands since the European Union's deal with Turkey in March this year, 16,229 refugees and migrants – including 6,000 children – are living in facilities designed to hold only 8,204 people.

[Full article](#) (Save the Children)

## **[News] Save the Children prepared to respond to children's need in New Zealand earthquake**

13<sup>th</sup> of November 2016 - Aid workers from Save the Children will mobilise staff to meet the needs of children and their families affected by last night's earthquake in New Zealand if there is a need for a humanitarian response. The powerful 7.8-magnitude earthquake struck approximately 50kms north-east of Christchurch and was felt across the country. A tsunami warning is in place and residents in low-lying areas have been urged to evacuate.

[Full article](#) (Save the Children)

## **[News] After abuse as a girl, U.N. albinism expert aims to end ritual murders**

16<sup>th</sup> of November 2016 - When Ikponwosa Ero was five years old, she couldn't walk down the street in Nigeria without being abused for having albinism -- a lack of pigmentation in the skin, hair and eyes. "(In) five minutes, almost 50 people have said something, pulled your skin, pulled your hair or sung (abusive songs) to you," the United Nations' first independent expert on albinism said in an interview with the Thomson Reuters Foundation. "I was wondering why was I born ? ... How will I get to my adult years and survive this? I don't think I can make it. "People with albinism are frequently shunned, attacked and even killed across Africa. In many countries, their body parts are believed to bring wealth and good luck and are prized in witchcraft for use in charms and magical potions.

[Full article](#) (Reuters)

### **[News] Africa's charter on children's rights: Turning words into action**

7<sup>th</sup> of November 2016 - With more than 500 million people under the age of 18, Africa has one of the world's youngest populations. As birth rates decline in other regions, the number of African children is expected to double by mid-century and gradually overtake Asia as home the largest number of young people. Thanks to a landmark agreement that took effect 17 years ago this month, this growing population of African children enjoys more rights and significantly more protections than earlier generations. The African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (ACRWC), agreed by African leaders in 1990 and which went into force on 29 November 1999, has helped enshrine the rights of children and their welfare in laws across the continent. The African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child, which was created under the Charter, deserves credit for promoting children's rights and monitor implementation of the ACRWC.

[Full article](#) (Thomson Reuters Foundation)

### **[News] Governments from Asia-Pacific meet to advance children's rights**

14<sup>th</sup> of November 2016 - Governments from across Asia-Pacific recently held a meeting to discuss ways to advance children's rights in a number of critical areas. The event, 'A Billion Brains: Smarter Children, Healthier Economies', was hosted by the Government of Malaysia. It brought together heads of state and senior leaders from 28 countries across Asia-Pacific, which is home to more than one billion children, or nearly half the world's under 18s. The meeting sought to foster 'South-South cooperation' – countries learning from others that have faced similar challenges, in order to make progress for children.

[Full article](#) (Inquirer.net)

### **[News] Myanmar aid curbs hit children in Muslim-majority region – UN**

9<sup>th</sup> of November 2016 - Unrest in Myanmar's northwest is taking a "terrible toll" on children, the U.N. children's agency UNICEF said and called for full humanitarian access to the Muslim-majority north of Rakhine state. Tens of thousands of people have been cut off from food and other aid normally provided by international agencies since deadly attacks on police guard posts along the border with Bangladesh on Oct. 9. "While some aid has been delivered in recent days, UNICEF calls for full resumption of essential services and the urgent lifting of all restrictions of movement of health and other professionals so they can safely reach children and families," UNICEF said in a statement from New York on Tuesday. Troops have poured into the region in response to the attacks, in which assailants believed to be from the mostly stateless Rohingya group killed nine policemen.

[Full article](#) (Thomson Reuters Foundation)

### **[Nouvelles] Calais : les droits de l'enfant oubliés selon l'ONU**

3 novembre 2016 - Près de 1800 mineurs non accompagnés quittent à leur tour, ce mercredi 2 novembre 2016, la «Jungle» de Calais, marquant la fin du démantèlement du plus grand bidonville de France. Comme pour les migrants majeurs, ils rejoignent des centres d'accueil dédiés. Mais pour le Comité des Nations Unies sur les droits de l'enfant (CRC), tout reste à faire, notamment la question des droits de ces enfants migrants. Dans un communiqué publié ce 2 novembre, les dix-huit experts du CRC interpellent directement les autorités françaises et britanniques : « Les gouvernements de la France et le Royaume-Uni ne se sont pas montrés à la hauteur de leurs obligations en vertu de la Convention relative aux droits

de l'enfant dans la façon dont ils ont géré la situation des enfants migrants vivant dans le camp de Calais.  
»

[Article complet](#) (TV5Monde)

### **[News] Ikea gets the world playing to support Children's Rights**

20<sup>th</sup> of November 2016 - Play is a fundamental right for all children. That's why IKEA and IKEA Foundation are teaming up with six leading children's rights organisations and putting play at the heart of a new good cause campaign: Let's Play for Change, starting on Children's Rights Day 20 November. The campaign will support children's development and learning, equal participation, sports, and of course, play. For every children's book and toy sold between 20 November and 24 December, the IKEA Foundation will make a donation of €1 to support children's right to play and develop in some of the world's most vulnerable communities.

[Full article](#) (Save the Children)

### **[Nouvelles] France : S'engager en faveur de la Déclaration sur la sécurité dans les écoles**

17 novembre 2016 - Le président François Hollande devrait apporter le soutien de la France à la Déclaration sur la sécurité dans les écoles, a déclaré Human Rights Watch dans une nouvelle vidéo diffusée en amont de la Journée internationale de l'Enfant, le 20 novembre. La Déclaration sur la sécurité dans les écoles est un accord non-contraignant proposé au soutien des États lors d'une conférence internationale organisée à Oslo (Norvège) en mai 2015.

[Article complet](#) (Human Rights Watch)

### **[News] Kyrgyzstan Ups Fight against Child Marriage**

21<sup>st</sup> of November 2016 - "[E]veryone knows mullahs marry [people] at an early age," the head of a community elders court told me when I was in southern Kyrgyzstan researching domestic violence in 2014. Although child and forced marriage are illegal in Kyrgyzstan, an estimated 12 percent of girls marry before age 18. One percent are married before age 15. These girls are typically wed in religious ceremonies and their marriages remain unregistered. On Friday, Kyrgyzstan's President Almazbek Atambayev took an important step in the fight against child marriage by signing a new law introducing criminal sanctions, including imprisonment, for people who conduct or facilitate religious marriages of children under 18.

[Full article](#) (Human Rights Watch)

### **[News] On Universal Children's Day, UNICEF calls for protecting the rights of every child**

20<sup>th</sup> of November 2016 – Highlighting the plight of millions of children around the world, the head of United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) has called on everyone to recommit themselves to protect the rights of every child. "When we protect their rights, we are not only preventing their suffering. We are not only safeguarding their lives. We are protecting our common future," said the UNICEF Executive Director, Anthony Lake, in his message on Universal Children's Day. Established on 20 November 1954, UN Universal Children's Day promotes international togetherness, awareness among children worldwide, and improving children's welfare.

[Full article](#) (UNICEF)

## 2. Conferences, Courses and Events

### **Course – Master of advanced studies in children’s rights (including child labour)**

The Master of Advanced Studies in Children's Rights (MCR) is a part-time international and interdisciplinary postgraduate programme, which takes place over a two-year period. The Programme is designed for professionals who work with children’s rights issues, including lawyers, psychologists, sociologists, judges, social workers, government officials, staff of non-governmental organisations, academics and journalists.

**Location:** Geneva

**Date:** February 2017

[For more information](#) (Université de Genève)

### **Course – Child Rights and Development**

This e-learning course focuses on child rights and child protection issues, which will look closely at the entire gamut of international legal framework on the rights of children and protection of children with a particular focus on child rights violations and remedies globally. The course will explore legal, humanitarian, development and other strategies for understanding and advancing the human rights of children. The course is based on a dynamic pedagogy including reading materials, video clips, case studies, and interactive webinars with the instructor.

**Location:** Online

**Date:** 12 July 2017 – 22 August 2017

[For more information](#) (Human Rights Center – University for Peace)

### **Formation - Responsable de projets Protection de l’enfance en situation d’urgence - parcours court en Afrique**

Vous avez une expérience professionnelle et une qualification en lien avec le métier : découvrez votre futur environnement professionnel, adaptez vos compétences en management et maîtrisez les compétences techniques spécifiques, tout en bénéficiant d’un accompagnement de votre projet professionnel et à votre prise de poste. Cette formation comporte 3 mois de formation et 6 mois de mission humanitaire. Elle délivre un certificat de l’Institut Bioforce.

**Location :** Dakar, Sénégal

**Date :** 27 septembre 2017 – 22 décembre 2017

[Pour plus d’information](#) (Institut Bioforce)

### **Course - Thematic Short Course: Sexual Violence in Conflict Settings and Emergencies**

While some organizations have specific projects on sexual violence, others favour an integrated approach. However, as programmatic responses are relatively recent, there is a lack of trained and

experienced staff in this area. CERAH's one-week intensive course on Sexual Violence in Conflict Settings and Emergencies is designed to fill this gap. CERAH has also offered this seminar in French since September 2015. This course is organised with the support of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF). Handicap International, OHCHR, UNFPA and UNHCR are further partners collaborating in the development of the course.

**Location:** Geneva

**Date:** 20 March 2017 – 24 March 2017 or 04 September 2017 – 08 September 2017

[For more information](#) (CERAH Genève)

### **Course - Child Participation**

This e-learning course introduces staff members of (international) development agencies and NGOs to meaningful children's participation. Children have participation rights that state parties and other duty bearers should fulfill, respect and protect in families, schools, communities, and wider society.

**Location:** Online

**Date:** 1 February 2017 – 14 March 2017

[For more information](#) (European Rights Education Associates)

### **Training - Training course on Gender-based Violence**

This course is aimed at building the capacity and commitment of participants to undertake programs targeted at eradicating gender-based violence and to develop a new movement for gender equality. The course also features a number of exercises and reflective activities designed to examine the concepts of gender, gender-based violence, sexuality, and rights. It will further explore the impact of gender-based violence on education, health and development.

**Location:** Nairobi, Kenya

**Date:** 16 January 2017 – 20 January 2017

[For more information](#) (Indepth Research Services)

### **Course - Protection of Human Rights in the Contemporary World: Practices, Challenges and Prospects**

This 9 week specialized certificate course consciously adopts a contemporary focus for unpacking the diverse dimensions of international human rights law, practice and advocacy. It begins with a juxtaposition of human rights in theory and in practice, and situates the very concept on a spectrum of competing approaches adopted by contemporary thinkers. Having thus set the tone for a critical and realistic analysis of contemporary human rights issues, the course examines the notion of universality of human rights with the use of case studies from recent global events.

**Location:** Online

**Date:** 18 January 2017 – 21 March 2017

[For more information](#) (Human Rights Center – University for Peace)



### 3. Sub-regional and Country updates

#### **Africa: Enough Is Enough - Oxfam Seeks to End Violence Against Women and Girls Once and for All**

Gender inequality is both the cause and the consequence of violence against women and girls, said Oxfam today, as the agency launches a new global campaign called "Enough: Together We Can End Violence Against Women and Girls" to stop one of the most prolific human rights violations.

[Full article](#) (Allafrica.com)

#### **Afrique : Éducation : public, privé, même constat**

09 novembre 2016 - Malgré les efforts des États et la multiplication des établissements privés, l'école africaine n'est toujours pas au niveau. À la recherche de main-d'œuvre qualifiée, des entreprises prennent le relais.

[Article complet](#) (Jeuneafrique.com)

#### **Côte d'Ivoire : Jennifer Hofmann: en Afrique, «les enfants ne connaissent pas leurs droits»**

05 novembre 2016 - Le 5 novembre, c'est en France la Journée nationale de lutte contre le harcèlement scolaire. Un phénomène qui, dans le monde, toucherait des dizaines de millions d'élèves chaque année. Ce sont souvent les jeunes filles qui sont victimes d'abus commis par d'autres élèves ou leurs professeurs sur le chemin ou dans l'enceinte de l'école. Les cas sont très nombreux en particulier en Afrique où ils restent largement impunis. Jennifer Hoffman, spécialiste des questions d'éducation au bureau Afrique centrale et de l'ouest à l'UNICEF, est l'invitée de RFI. Elle est en ligne d'Abidjan, en Côte d'Ivoire.

[Article complet](#) (RFI.fr)

#### **Ethiopia: Court Says Child Justice System Improving**

November 26<sup>th</sup> 2016 - The Federal Supreme Court said all round efforts made so far in accessing justice for children are indicative of the country's stride towards improved child justice system. Speaking at event organized to mark International Child Day on its premises yesterday, Court President Dagne Melaku said it has been making various efforts to improve child justice administration focusing on their protection and benefit.

[Full article](#) (Allafrica.com)

#### **Liberia: Student Activist Wants Increased Protection for Children**

November 27<sup>th</sup> 2016 - A student activist has called on governments around the world to step up their action against all forms of child abuse. Mr. Martin Kollie made the call last weekend during the observance of the 27th anniversary of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC). It was organized by the National Children and Youth Advisory Board of Liberia (NCYAB) with support from Defense for Children International.

[Full article](#) (Allafrica.com)

## **Nigeria: 'Nigeria Has Highest Prevalence of Obstetric Fistula'**

November 28<sup>th</sup> 2016 - The United Nation Children Fund (UNICEF) at the weekend revealed that over 0.4 to 0.8million women suffer from obstetric fistula (OF) in Nigeria, ranking the country as highest prevalence of Obstetric Fistula in the world. The UNICEF gender and development specialist, Venera Zakirova made this known while delivering a presentation on child marriage in Abuja.

[Full article](#) (Allafrica.com)

## **République centrafricaine : près d'un enfant sur cinq est réfugié ou déplacé interne**

15 novembre 2016 – Alors qu'une fragile reprise se poursuit en République centrafricaine, plus de 850 000 personnes, dont la moitié sont des enfants, sont encore loin de chez elles, qu'elles soient déplacées internes ou réfugiées dans les pays voisins, a expliqué aujourd'hui l'UNICEF. L'insécurité qui perdure depuis le conflit a empêché la plupart des 920 000 personnes déplacées début 2014 de retrouver leur foyer.

[Article complet](#) (Unicef.org)

## **Senegal: Include Older Children in Malaria Prevention Treatment to Cut Transmission - Experts**

November 22<sup>nd</sup> 2016 - Providing preventive drugs to children up to age 10 during the high malaria season in Senegal more than halved cases in that age group. Giving malaria prevention drugs to older children, not just to those under five, during the rainy season in sub-Saharan Africa can massively cut cases and transmission of the deadly disease, health experts said on Tuesday.

[Full article](#) (Allafrica.com)

## **South Africa : Violence Against Children Costs South Africa \$16.85 Billion Annually, Researchers Say**

November 24<sup>th</sup> 2016 - Violence against children in South Africa cost the nation R238.58 billion (equivalent to \$16.85 billion in U.S. dollars) in 2015, Save the Children South Africa revealed at a press conference today (Nov. 23). A study commissioned by the children's rights organization found the long-term effects of emotional, physical and sexual abuse have direct impact on the country's economy.

[Full article](#) (Newswise.com)

## **Sub-Saharan Africa: Child labour is part of most of what we buy today: what can we do?**

November 24<sup>th</sup> 2016 -Child labour is not something any business wants in its supply chain. Yet with an estimated 168 million children in some form of labour globally, 98 million of them working in agriculture and 12 million in manufacturing and industry, it is an uncomfortable reality of globalised commodities that businesses cannot afford to avoid.

[Full article](#) (Theguardian.com)

## **Sudan: Rebels, UN Vow to Act Against Child Recruitment**

November 25<sup>th</sup> 2016 - The Sudan People's Liberation Movement-North (SPLM-N) has signed an Action Plan with the United Nations to end and prevent the recruitment and use of children in conflict. Its rebel fighters came under attack in South Kordofan on Wednesday. The chairman of the SPLM-N, Malik Agar, signed the Action Plan in a ceremony taking place at the United Nations' Palais des Nations in Geneva, Switzerland on Wednesday.

[Full article](#) (Allafrica.com)

## **Tanzanie : D'exciseuse traditionnelle à éducatrice en santé des femmes**

28 novembre 2016 - Norkiramati Kurandai a travaillé la majeure partie de sa vie en tant qu'exciseuse traditionnelle ou « ngariba » dans le district de Ngorongoro, en Tanzanie. Après avoir entendu parler d'un projet de l'UNESCO qui aide les communautés à modifier les pratiques culturelles néfastes et suivi des ateliers de formation, elle travaille toujours avec les femmes locales mais en tant qu'éducatrice en matière de santé sexuelle et reproductive (SSR).

[Article complet](#) (Unesco.org)

## **Tanzania : New mobile phone system 'mBirth' registers Tanzania's invisible children**

November 28<sup>th</sup> 2016 - At Lunyanywi village in Tanzania's southern highlands, local residents gather to welcome a new member of their community. Antonia Kisenja and her husband Moses are celebrating the birth of a baby boy they have named Arnold with drumming, food and a specially prepared local brew. But unlike her three older children, who do not have birth certificates, Arnold got his soon after he was born.

[Full article](#) (news.trust.org)