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DES DROITS DES ENFANTS

INTERNATIONAL  
BUREAU  
FOR CHILDREN'S RIGHTS

OFICINA  
INTERNACIONAL DE  
LOS DERECHOS DEL NIÑO

المكتب الدولي لحقوق الطفل

# Newsletter on Children's rights in Latin America

*October 2016*

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

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

### [News] Five Athens Arrests in International Child Sex Trafficking Bust

18<sup>th</sup> of October 2016 - Five people were arrested in Athens last week as part of an international effort to crack down on child sex trafficking. The Federal Bureau of Investigation, along with representatives from the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children and several law enforcement partners, announced 82 minors were rescued and 239 traffickers and their associates were arrested as part of Operation Cross Country X. The operation, which ran Oct. 13-15, was an international effort focusing on underage human trafficking. This is the 10th iteration of FBI-led initiative which took place across the United States and, for the first time, in several countries around the world. Law enforcement partners from Cambodia, Canada, the Philippines and Thailand had operations in their respective countries.

[Full Article](#) (Athens Patch)

### [News] ‘Island of despair’: Australia intentionally torturing refugees on Nauru, says major Amnesty International report

18<sup>th</sup> of October 2016 - The Australian government is responsible for the deliberate and systematic torture of refugees on Nauru and should be held accountable under international law, according to a major new report informed by unprecedented access to the secretive island. Amnesty International said it had interviewed 62 refugees and asylum seekers on Nauru, and more than a dozen current or former contract workers who delivered services on behalf of the Australian government, to compile a report it titled: *Island of Despair*.

[Full Article](#) (The Sydney Morning Herald)

## **[News] Canada violating international law by jailing hundreds of migrant children, advocacy groups say**

4<sup>th</sup> of October 2016 - Canada's incarceration of hundreds of migrant children is a violation of Canadian and international law, and a stain on the country's reputation, according to 46 medical and legal advocacy groups who are pressing the government to stop it. Data obtained by the group show an average of 242 children were detained in each of the past four years, often after failed refugee claims. Canada's government says public safety is a main concern, along with flight risk and uncertain identity, but the group's research shows virtually all detentions, almost 90 per cent, are to prevent people fleeing in advance of deportation or not showing up to a tribunal. In some cases, these people's children have been born in Canada and are therefore citizens, but must be detained as well to avoid leaving children alone. That means the 242 number is lower than the true number, as it only includes formal foreign child detainees.

[Full Article](#) (National Post)

## **[News] UK steps up support to end modern slavery and child exploitation globally**

16<sup>th</sup> of October 2016 – *UK will prioritise ending modern slavery and child exploitation around the world.* To mark the national day against slavery on October 18, International Development Secretary Priti Patel outlined an increase in support for women and girl refugees in Jordan, Iraq and Lebanon, and for vulnerable people at risk of trafficking on migration routes in North Africa and Europe. The International Development Secretary echoed Prime Minister Theresa May at the United Nations General Assembly, as she called on the global community to go further and work faster to stop modern slavery and child exploitation.

[Full Article](#) (Relief Web)

## **[News] Clampdown on child labour in developing world to target UK firms**

15<sup>th</sup> of October 2016 - The government is to intervene to encourage companies to scrutinise their supply chains for evidence of worker exploitation or child labour, the international development minister will announce this coming week. Detailing a £1m grant from the aid budget towards a campaign to lobby businesses to take more responsibility for the labour practices within their supply chains, international development secretary Priti Patel, said she wanted to clamp down on global child exploitation.

[Full Article](#) (The Guardian)

## **[News] Syrian girls are being pushed into child marriage in Lebanese refugee camps**

17<sup>th</sup> of October 2016 - Each year, 15 million girls are married before the age of 18. In developing countries, one in every three girls is married before 18; one in nine is married before 15. If the present trend continues, 150 million girls will be married before their 18th birthday over the next decade. That is an average of 15 million girls each year. Child marriage is a fundamental violation of human rights. According to reports from both UNFPA and Human Rights Watch, child marriage is associated with many harmful consequences. Child brides face a higher risk of contracting HIV; are much more likely to experience domestic violence; and pregnancy remains among the leading causes of death for girls aged 15 to 19 worldwide.

[Full Article](#) (Huffington post)

## **[News] Bangladesh's 'Wedding buster' takes on illegal child marriage**

11<sup>th</sup> of October 2016 - As the UN marks the International Day of the Girl Child on Tuesday, activist Radha Rani Sarker is meeting with European leaders to highlight the plight of girls in her native Bangladesh, where 73% are illegally married off while still in childhood. Radha, 21, met French Women's Rights Minister Laurence Rossignol and reporters in Paris on Monday as part of a tour that will also take her to Brussels. With her baby face and sparkling black eyes, she did not appear to be intimidated in the presence of the minister and her entourage, telling the story of her life with disarming calmness.

[Full Article](#) (France 24)

## **[News] Yemeni child marriage film submitted to Oscars**

12<sup>th</sup> of October 2016 - Yemen is submitting its first ever full-length movie entry to the Oscars this year, with a film telling the story of a 10-year-old girl fighting to divorce her much older husband. *I am Nojoom, Age 10 and Divorced* will compete alongside films from 84 other countries for the prize of Best Foreign Language Film at the 2017 Oscars. The film is based on the real-life story of Nujood Ali, now 18, who was married to a man in his 30s when she was nine years old. Based on a book by Ali, it tells the story of her escape two months after the arranged marriage, and her struggle to get a local judge to grant her a divorce in the absence of laws against child marriage.

[Full Article](#) (Middle East Eye)

### **[Petition] Child bride faces execution by hanging in Iran**

13<sup>th</sup> of October 2016 - Zeinab Sekaanvand Lokran comes from a poor, conservative Iranian-Kurdish family, and ran away from home to marry Hossein Sarmadi in the hope for a better life. She was 17 when her husband died. Zeinab was arrested and “confessed” that she killed her husband after he’d abused her for months and refused her requests for divorce. She was then held at the police station for the next 20 days and repeatedly tortured by police officers. After a grossly unfair trial, in which she was denied access to a lawyer during her entire pre-trial detention, Zeinab was sentenced to death by hanging

[Full Article](#) (Amnesty)

### **[News] Shattered dreams: Dim future for the refugee child in Malaysia**

16th of October 2016 – IN Malaysia, a country that has positioned itself as a go-to destination for migrants escaping war and persecution in their homes, access to education is a luxury for refugee children. Malaysia is not party to the 1951 Refugee Convention, but according to the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR), there were 246,270 “people of concern” in Malaysia last year, a figure that included registered refugees, asylum seekers, as well as other categories of stateless people and those in “refugee-like” situations.

[Full Article](#) (Asian Correspondent)

### **[News] Pope issues SOS for ‘invisible and voiceless’ refugee children**

14th of October 2016 – In his annual message for the Vatican’s refugee day, Pope Francis focuses his attention on child migrants, saying they’re the most vulnerable group among the refugees because they are “invisible and voiceless.” Quoting Jesus in the Gospel of Matthew - “whoever receives a child in my name receives me” - the pope notes how Jesus goes on to warn those who cause a child to sin: “It is better for him to have a great millstone fastened round his neck and be drowned in the depth of the sea.”

[Full Article](#) (Crux Now)

### **[News] Saving Bangladesh's children**

27th of October 2016 - In our increasingly interdependent world, malnutrition that causes stunted growth in poor children should be of concern to the community of nations. After all, prosperity and good health are the building blocks of a more stable and less violent world. Bangladesh, formerly known as East Pakistan, separated from the rest of Pakistan and became a sovereign nation-state in 1971. According to the World Bank, "Bangladesh emerged from the ashes of a War of Independence in 1971 as the world's second poorest nation."

[Full Article](#) (The Whig)

### **[News] Investing in early childhood development essential to helping more children and communities thrive, new Lancet Series finds**

5<sup>th</sup> of October 2016 - An estimated 43 percent—249 million—of children under five in low-and middle-income countries (LMICs) are at an elevated risk of poor development due to extreme poverty and stunting, according to findings from *The Lancet's new Series, Advancing Early Childhood Development: from Science to Scale*. The Series reveals that early childhood development interventions that promote nurturing care—health, nutrition, responsive caregiving, security and safety, and early learning—may cost as little as 50 cents per child per year, when combined with existing services such as health. WHO, the World Bank, and UNICEF contributed to and offered guidance to the Series.

[Full Article](#) (World Health Organization)

### **[News] An investigation found Syrian child refugees in Turkey producing clothes for major brands**

24<sup>th</sup> of October 2016 - Nearly 5 million people have now fled the violence in Syria. More have gone to Turkey than any other country. Desperate for income, many have sought employment illegally in the country's garment industry. As many foreign brands making garments in Turkey know, factories often exploit the availability of this cheap labor. A report by BBC Panorama lends weight to critics who argue brands aren't doing enough to safeguard against the practice. "Undercover: The Refugees Who Make Our Clothes," scheduled to air tonight (Oct. 24) on BBC One, found Syrian child refugees in Turkey making clothing for popular British brands Marks and Spencer and Asos. It also found adult refugees working illegally at factories distressing jeans for Spanish brands Zara and Mango.

[Full Article](#) (Quartz)

## **[News] Underage, underpaid and unwelcome**

26<sup>th</sup> of October 2016 - As ever increasing numbers of Syrians flee their homes in search of refuge in Turkey, employers in their adoptive country have taken advantage of their destitution. In sweatshops in Istanbul, the *Telegraph* found children as young as five working for a pittance to help their families survive.

[Full Article](#) (The Telegraph)

## **[News] Refugee parents must be involved in children's education, experts say**

23<sup>th</sup> of October 2016 - Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Minister John McCallum was in Winnipeg last week to meet with his provincial counterparts. At the meetings, McCallum admitted he was surprised at the size of Syrian refugee families resettled to Canada and the number of Syrian children was more than anticipated. With this, media coverage turned to the challenges for schools that a large new student population brings and the need for language and support workers.

[Full Article](#) (CBC)

## **[News] Syria: UN education envoy urges International Criminal Court probe into Idlib school attack**

27<sup>th</sup> of October 2016 - The United Nations envoy for education today called for an immediate investigation by the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court (ICC) into what he called a war crime in Syria – the latest attacks on a school compound in the western province of Idlib that left at least 20 pupils and teachers dead.

[Full Article](#) (UN News Centre)

## **2. Conferences, Courses and Events**

### **Conference – With Children, for Children: From Ideas to Action**

On the occasion of 2016 International Children's Day, a symposium will bring together members of the European Parliament, European Commission officials and 12 children and young people from across Europe who have participated in local, national or international child participation



projects. The objective is to demonstrate how Members of the European Parliament (MEPs) and officials from the European Commission (EC) can engage with children around Europe in a meaningful way.

**Location:** Brussel, Belgium

**Date:** 17<sup>th</sup> of November 2016

[For more information](#) (EuroChild)

### **Conference - International Family Conference: Children's Rights and Family**

International Family Conference is a biennial international academic conference which is organized by the Women's Platform of the Journalists and Writers Foundation (JWF), which holds General Consultative Status at UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC). Its aim is to stimulate interdisciplinary and cross-national collaboration and approach to various family issues.

**Location:** Abuja, Nigeria

**Date:** 19<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> of November 2016

[For more information](#) (Journalists and Writers Foundation)

### **Forum - Forum on Human Rights, Democracy and the Rule of Law: Widening the Democratic Space: the role of youth in public decision-making**

In resolution 28/14, adopted on 26 March 2015, the Human Rights Council decided to establish a forum on human rights, democracy and rule of law. The purpose of the Forum is "to provide a platform for promoting dialogue and cooperation on issues pertaining to the relationship between these areas" and to "identify and analyze best practices, challenges and opportunities for States in their efforts to secure respect for human rights, democracy and the rule of law".

**Location:** Geneva, Switzerland

**Date:** 21<sup>st</sup> to 22<sup>nd</sup> of November 2016

**Registration deadline:** 16<sup>th</sup> of November 2016

[For more information](#) (United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights)

## **Conference - PICCWED-Putrajaya International Conference On Child, Women, Elderly And Disabled**

The conference will bring together scholars and practitioners who are interested to present their papers in a diverse range of areas pertaining to Children, Women, Elderly And Disabled People and other related fields.

**Location:** Putrajaya, Malaysia

**Date:** 3<sup>rd</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup> of December 2016

[For more information](#) (Piccwed)

## **Conference – International Conference «Early Childhood Care and Education»**

The idea of the child as innocent, as pure, the ‘little angel’ in need of protection from the harsh realities of life and the corrupting influences of the world around us has come to dominate our thinking, language, values, social policies and educational philosophies in the past few decades. Children are seen as ‘little people’, ‘blank slates’, works in progress who are loved, nurtured and guided as they grow to become mature, rational and responsible adults.

**Location:** Moscow, Russian Federation

**Date:** 10th to 13th May 2017

[For more information](#) (ECCE)

### **3. Sub-Regional and Country updates**

**[Noticias] América central –Se realiza en Tegucigalpa Taller interinstitucional para tratar el tema migratorio en el Triángulo Norte de Centroamérica.**

22 de octubre de 2016 – A lo largo de los años se ha hecho evidente el aumento de migrantes en los países del llamado Triángulo Norte de Centroamérica, integrado por El Salvador, Guatemala y Honduras, dichos movimientos masivos tienen implicaciones humanitarias, jurídicas y políticas que han convertido el tema en una parte esencial en la agenda de los gobiernos, los organismos internacionales y organizaciones de la sociedad civil.

[Artículo completo](#) (Relief Web)

**[Noticias] América Latina y el Caribe –UNICEF hace un llamado a los Estados de América Latina y el Caribe para que den mayor visibilidad a las desigualdades que diariamente “excluyen, humillan y matan” a niñas, adolescentes y mujeres**

25 octubre 2016 – Los Estados deben dar mayor visibilidad a las desigualdades que diariamente “excluyen, humillan y matan” a niñas, adolescentes y mujeres pidió hoy la Directora Regional de UNICEF para América Latina y Caribe, María Cristina Perceval, en su intervención durante la XIII

Conferencia Regional sobre la Mujer de América Latina y el Caribe que se celebra estos días en Montevideo (Uruguay) y es organizada por la Comisión Económica para América Latina y el Caribe (CEPAL).

[Artículo completo](#) (Relief Web)

### **[Noticias] Argentina– Asesinato de una niña hace convocar a una marcha y paro nacional de mujeres**

17 de octubre de 2016– Lucía Pérez, de 16 años, fue drogada, violada, empalada y asesinada. Luego los culpables lavaron y limpiaron su ropa y la dejaron en un centro de atención médico en Mar del Plata y huyeron. Esto es lo que se sabe del brutal asesinato de la joven el pasado 8 de octubre, según la fiscal del caso María Isabel Sánchez, citada por Télam. El hecho, por el que ya han sido detenidos dos sospechosos y se ordenó la detención de un tercero, ha desatado la indignación en Argentina y el resto de Latinoamérica.

[Artículo completo](#) (CRIN)

### **[Noticias] Colombia –ONU pide mantener esfuerzos para proteger a los niños afectados por el conflicto en Colombia**

24 de octubre, 2016 — El Secretario General de la ONU reiteró su pleno apoyo al proceso de paz en Colombia y alentó a todas las partes a que sigan haciendo frente a las repercusiones del conflicto en los niños. En un nuevo informe sobre la situación de los niños en ese país, Ban Ki-moon también exhortó al Gobierno y a las Fuerzas Armadas Revolucionarias de Colombia (FARC) a que continúen el proceso actual de separación de todos los menores de 18 años vinculados a las FARC y a que atiendan con premura sus necesidades de reintegración.

[Artículo completo](#) (ONU)

### **[Noticias] Colombia –UNICEF hace llamado a donar por las niñas y niños en la emergencia de Chocó**

17 de octubre de 2016— Por las fuertes lluvias ocasionadas el 17 de octubre pasado, se causaron inundaciones en varios municipios del Chocó. De acuerdo con la información de la Secretaría de Educación Departamental del Chocó, el actual desbordamiento de los ríos San Juan, Atrato y Baudó deja un reporte de 48 sedes educativas afectadas y 15 con servicio interrumpido, las cuales prestan servicio educativo a 5.500 estudiantes de manera directa. Se reportan pérdidas en materia de infraestructura, libros y material didáctico y equipos de cómputo. Asimismo se han visto afectadas las viviendas de docentes y estudiantes.

[Artículo completo](#) (UNICEF)

### **[Noticias] Costa Rica –Los derechos de las niñas impulsan el desarrollo sostenible**

11 de octubre de 2016–Garantizar los derechos de todas las niñas es la mejor estrategia para alcanzar los Objetivos de Desarrollo Sostenible. Por ello, en el marco de la celebración del Día de la Niña, UNICEF y la Vicepresidenta de Costa Rica, reúnen hoy a reconocidos expertos para analizar las inequidades que enfrentan las niñas y presentar escenarios de oportunidad para el cumplimiento de los retos propuestos en la Agenda 2030 para las niñas.

[Artículo completo](#) (Relief Web)

### **[Noticias] Ecuador –Terremoto de Ecuador: Seis meses después, muchos niños todavía necesitan ayuda**

16 de octubre de 2016–Seis meses después del terremoto que golpeó a Ecuador, satisfacer las necesidades de los niños que aún viven en refugios informales y zonas rurales sigue siendo un reto importante, afirmó hoy UNICEF. Más de 8,800 personas continúan viviendo en albergues espontáneos, sin condiciones adecuadas de agua y saneamiento. Además, los servicios locales de protección especial necesitan ser fortalecidos, y muchos niños todavía necesitan ayuda para superar el miedo que les impide asistir a la escuela desde el terremoto.

[Artículo completo](#) (Relief Web)

### **[Noticias] Guatemala –UNICEF lanzó U-Report Guatemala, una herramienta digital de participación adolescente y auditoría social**

1 de octubre de 2016 –El Fondo de las Naciones Unidas para la Infancia, UNICEF, lanzó U-Report Guatemala, una novedosa herramienta digital que permite a adolescentes y jóvenes enviar y recibir información en tiempo real sobre diferentes temas y que su voz sea tomada en cuenta en las políticas sociales.

[Artículo completo](#) (Relief Web)

### **[Noticias] Guatemala –UNICEF/UNODC Comunicado de Prensa: Lanzamiento de la Campaña Nacional de Prevención del Ciberdelito "No Confíes en Emojis"**

7 de octubre de 2016 – La Oficina de las Naciones Unidas contra la Droga y el Delito (UNODC) y el Fondo de las Naciones Unidas para la Infancia (UNICEF), junto a la Fiscalía General de la República (FGR) y la Policía Nacional Civil (PNC) y con el apoyo financiero de la Oficina Internacional de Asuntos Antinarcóticos y Procuración de Justicia (INL por sus siglas en inglés), lanzaron este día la Campaña Nacional para la Prevención del Ciberdelito, “No confíes en Emojis”. Con esta campaña se busca proteger a las niñas, niños y adolescentes de los riesgos y amenazas

que pueden presentarse al hacer un uso inadecuado de las tecnologías de la información y la comunicación y la importancia de denunciar los casos de ciberdelito al 911.

[Artículo completo](#) (Relief Web)

### **[Noticias] Haití–Tres semanas después de Matthew se necesitan el triple de los recursos previstos**

26 de octubre de 2016 – Tres semanas después de que el huracán Matthew golpeará Haití, UNICEF anuncia que necesitará 22,5 millones de dólares para hacer frente a las crecientes necesidades de los niños en todo el país, incluyendo en las áreas golpeadas.

[Artículo completo](#) (UNICEF)

### **[Noticias] Haití–Una semana después del huracán Matthew: al menos 300 escuelas dañadas en Haití, más de 100.000 niños sin estudiar**

10 de octubre de 2016 – Una semana después que el huracán Matthew golpeó Haití, en el momento en que las escuelas están reabriendo en todo el país, más de 100.000 niños perderán clases porque muchas de ellas fueron dañadas o convertidas en albergues temporales. Según las primeras estimaciones nacionales, al menos 300 escuelas públicas han sido parcial o totalmente dañadas en el país y muchas otras están siendo utilizadas como albergues temporales para las familias desplazadas.

[Artículo completo](#) (UNICEF)

### **[Noticias] Haití–Medio millón de niños viven en las zonas de Haití más golpeadas por el Huracán Matthew**

7 de octubre de 2016 –Se estima que 500.000 niños viven en los departamentos de Sur y Grande Anse, en el sur de Haití, las zonas más golpeadas por el Huracán Matthew, según UNICEF. Tres días después de la tormenta sigue sin poder determinarse cuántos niños necesitan asistencia de emergencia, dado que los daños a las carreteras siguen impidiendo los esfuerzos de evaluación y asistencia.

[Artículo completo](#) (UNICEF)

### **[Noticias] México– Las promesas de Peña Nieto sobre refugiados**

20 de octubre de 2016 –A diferencia de muchos líderes mundiales, que utilizaron las cumbres para reivindicar un retroceso en las protecciones existentes para los refugiados, Peña Nieto se pronunció enérgicamente a favor de la salvaguardia de los derechos de los refugiados y los migrantes. El presidente anunció que México reforzará sus procedimientos de reconocimiento de la condición de refugiado y desarrollará “alternativas para evitar la detención administrativa de los solicitantes de refugio, en particular de niñas y niños”.

[Artículo completo](#) (Human Rights Watch)

### **[Noticias] México– Vivo con mamá en prisión**

24 de octubre 2016 – En México, unos 500 niños nacieron en la cárcel y viven allí con sus madres, pero deben separarse de ellas al cumplir seis años. Los 82 niños que habitan la zona materno-infantil de la célebre prisión de mujeres, ubicada al oriente de la capital mexicana, no saben que viven en una cárcel. Desde la estancia infantil construida para ellos son visibles los dormitorios de las reclusas, pero las madres y el personal penitenciario han creado un pequeño mundo “lo más parecido posible al normal” para que los menores vivan casi como cualquiera durante sus primeros seis años de vida.

[Artículo completo](#) (El País)

### **[Noticias] Paraguay –La esperanza de la generación: las chicas desafiando la misoginia en el centro rural de Paraguay**

17 de octubre de 2016–Al este de Paraguay, en Mbaracayú, al final de 20km de un sinuoso camino terracería roja en medio de una selva tropical, hay una escuela secundaria para jóvenes mujeres que brinda una fuente de esperanza, en un país tristemente célebre en cuanto a los derechos de la mujer.

[Artículo completo](#) (CRIN)

### **[Noticias] Perú– Adolescentes: Líderes y consejeros presidenciales en el Perú**

3 de octubre de 2016– Hace unos días PPK, el Primer Ministro, Fernando Zavala, y la Ministra de la Mujer y Poblaciones Vulnerables, Ana María Romero, mantuvieron la primera de las reuniones periódicas que han prometido tener en todo del país con los integrantes de los 180 Consejos Consultivos de Niños Niñas y Adolescentes – CCONNA

[Artículo completo](#) (UNICEF)

### **[Noticias] Uruguay –PARLASUR y UNICEF dialogan sobre los Derechos de la niñez en la región**

26 de octubre de 2016 - Este miércoles 26 de octubre, en la ciudad de Montevideo se llevó a cabo un encuentro entre los diferentes Representantes de la UNICEF en América Latina y el Caribe y Parlamentarios del MERCOSUR, para discutir el tema de los Derechos de la niñez en el PARLASUR y en los Parlamentos Nacionales del MERCOSUR.

[Artículo completo](#) (Relief web)