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Newsletter on Children's rights – Children and Armed conflicts

September 2016

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

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1. Global Development on Children and Human’s rights

[News] Alarming Trends Face Children and Families of World’s 21st Largest Country

The world’s 65.3 million forcibly displaced people—who would make up the world’s 21st largest country based on population—are falling far behind others in terms of education, health, child marriage, and other key factors, a new report by Save the Children illustrates. Forced to Flee: Inside the 21st Largest Country examined indicators most relevant to the well-being of children and found results that demonstrate both the enormous challenges faced by refugees and Internally Displaced People as well as the notable contributions they could make to their host countries and communities if they were allowed to do so.

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

[News] California changes laws so children can no longer be prostitutes

27th of September 2016 - Children will no longer be classified as prostitutes in the U.S. state of California after a new law decriminalized prostitution for minors in a move praised by child rights campaigners. Coming on the back of a public campaign coined "There is No Such Thing" as a child prostitute, crimes of solicitation and prostitution will no longer apply to anyone aged under 18. Under-age victims of sex trafficking are to be referred to child welfare agencies.

[Full Article](#) (Reuters)

[News] Canada's child detention policy unjust, illegal: rights group

22nd of September 2016 - Canada's practice of putting children in immigration detention centers or separating them from detained parents is causing them psychological harm and violates international law, a rights group said on Thursday. An estimated 242 children per year, from 2010 to 2014, were detained at Canadian immigration centers resembling medium-security prisons, according to a report from the University of Toronto's International Human Rights program.

[Full Article](#) (Reuters)

[Communiqué de presse] Dans les 10 pays affichant les taux de scolarisation les plus faibles, 40 % des enfants n'ont pas accès à l'éducation de base

1er septembre 2016 – Dans les 10 pays affichant les pourcentages d'enfants n'ayant pas accès à l'éducation primaire les plus élevés, près de 2 enfants sur 5, soit 18 millions, ne sont pas scolarisés, a déclaré aujourd'hui l'UNICEF. C'est le Libéria qui enregistre le plus fort taux d'enfants non scolarisés avec près des deux tiers des enfants en âge de suivre une éducation primaire qui n'ont pas accès à l'école. Le Soudan du Sud occupe le deuxième rang : 59 % des enfants ne peuvent pas bénéficier d'une éducation primaire et 1 école sur 3 est fermée en raison du conflit.

[Article complet](#) (UNICEF)

[News] Education Commission launches bold plan to get every child in school by 2030

18th of September 2016 - Bold action and radical funding could see every child in the world in school by 2030 - and avoid a looming global education catastrophe. The high-powered Education Commission today delivered a plan called The Learning Generation to give a quality primary and secondary education to every girl and boy in every country.

[Full Article](#) (A word at School)

[News] Girls Take Over on Day of the Girl

29th of September 2016 - On 11 October, politicians, CEOs and other leaders across the globe will have their positions taken over by girls who are calling for equality and proving they can change the world. Over 200 takeovers will take place in more than 50 countries to mark the International Day of the Girl. Leading figures in politics and business will be taken over by girls including the first female President of Nepal Bidhya Devi Bhandari. By taking over positions where they are rarely seen, girls will call on governments to remove the barriers that deny millions their rights.

[Full Article](#) (Plan International)

[Report] Half a million children have risked exploitation as refugee and migrant crisis turns into big business for smugglers

2nd of September 2016 - New figures reveal that around half a million refugee and migrant children on the move are believed to have turned to smugglers since January 2015, as delays and desperation drive them into the hands of criminals quick to exploit their vulnerability. In order to shine a light on the murky underworld of migrant smuggling in Europe, and better shape the response, UNICEF has gathered information from a range of sources – including Europol-Interpol, testimonies from children themselves, publications from UN agencies, NGOs, and corroborated media reports.

[Full Article](#) (Reuters)

[News] Indian welfare cuts led to deaths of 600 children from malnutrition, activist says

22nd of September 2016 - Funding cuts for welfare schemes by India's government have contributed to child malnutrition in Palghar district in the western state of Maharashtra, where 600 children are said to have died of starvation this year, according to activists. The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) issued a notice to the government of Maharashtra on Wednesday, asking for a detailed report on the deaths within four weeks.

[Full Article](#) (Reuters)

[Report] Japan and UNICEF team up to strengthen protection of children and women

21st of September 2016 - The Government of Japan has contributed with approximately US\$ 2.2 million to UNICEF to assist children and women's protection throughout Myanmar. Through this contribution, UNICEF in partnership with the Government of Myanmar, will work to both prevent and respond to cases of gender based violence, as well as contribute to the on-going development and capacity building of key government departments and civil society groups, namely through the provision of quality social work.

[Full Article](#) (Relief Web)

[Communiqué de presse] Les dirigeants mondiaux doivent investir en faveur de meilleures données sur les enfants – UNICEF

14 septembre 2016 – L'UNICEF appelle les dirigeants mondiaux à investir en faveur de meilleures statistiques sur les enfants. Une nouvelle étude du Fonds des Nations Unies pour l'enfance avertit

que des données suffisantes sont disponibles pour la moitié seulement des indicateurs de mesure des objectifs de développement durable liés aux enfants.

[Article complet](#) (UNICEF)

[Communiqué de presse] Près de 50 millions d'enfants « déracinés » dans le monde – UNICEF

7 septembre 2016 – Dans le monde entier, près de 50 millions d'enfants ont été déracinés – 28 millions d'entre eux chassés de chez eux par des conflits dont ils ne sont aucunement responsables, et des millions d'autres poussés à migrer dans l'espoir de trouver une vie meilleure, plus sûre. Souvent traumatisés par les conflits et la violence qu'ils fuient, ils sont confrontés à d'autres dangers, dont les risques de noyade lors des traversées, la malnutrition et la déshydratation, la traite des êtres humains, l'enlèvement, le viol et même le meurtre.

[Article complet](#) (UNICEF)

[Nouvelles] Québec exclut la gratuité scolaire pour les enfants sans-papiers

22 septembre 2016 - La question de l'accès à l'école gratuite pour les enfants non résidents ou sans statut passe à la trappe. Car contrairement à l'ancien projet de loi 86, le nouveau projet de loi visant à modifier la Loi sur l'instruction publique, qui s'ouvrait mercredi aux consultations particulières, n'en fait plus du tout mention. Plusieurs organismes de défense des droits des réfugiés et des sans-papiers se disent excédés par le report sine die de ce dossier, y compris la protectrice du citoyen, qui a démontré plusieurs signes d'impatience.

[Article complet](#) (Le Devoir)

[Report] Save the Children Calls for Ambitious Action to Get All Children Reading

8th of September 2016 - 250 million primary aged children worldwide are not learning to read and write – 130 million of whom have completed four years of education. The fact that so many children are failing to learn to read is a crisis that must be reversed urgently. In a new report released on International Literacy Day, Save the Children calls for countries to prioritise and invest in efforts to ensure all children are able to read.

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

[Report] Situation Analysis of Children with Disabilities in Myanmar 2016

27th of September 2016 - This situation analysis is the first ever study in Myanmar to provide a systematic understanding of the experiences of children with disabilities and their families, informed by robust, qualitative evidence. Children with disabilities have the same rights as all children. Given the same opportunities to flourish as any other child, they have the potential to lead fulfilling, dignified lives and to contribute to the social, cultural, and economic vitality of their communities

[Full Article](#) (Relief Web)

[News] UN General Assembly 2016: world leaders need to deliver education for children in emergencies

14th of September 2016 - Leaders from around the world will gather in New York to attend high-level meetings at the United Nations General Assembly. In their hands is the future of millions of children who are denied an education because of humanitarian emergencies including conflicts and natural disasters.

[Full Article](#) (A word at School)

[Report] UN refugees meeting a wasted opportunity to improve the lives of millions of children

19th of September 2016 - As the UN high-level meeting on refugees and migrants draws to a close in New York today, World Vision has expressed serious disappointment with the outcome. “We had high hopes for children, but today displaced and imprisoned children are left with a business-as-usual approach that offers little hope,” said World Vision’s Helen Keogh at the Summit in New York.

[Full Article](#) (Relief Web)

[Report] World Vision and ChildPact to release new tool measuring government efforts to protect children

28th of September 2016 - Today, World Vision and ChildPact, will launch the Child Protection Index in Brussels. This tool serves to prevent and end violence, child trafficking, child labour, discrimination and other violations of a child’s rights. The CPI makes use of 600 indicators drawn from child protection language in the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC). “The

Index verifies needs and gaps in protection systems. It is often hard for governments, civil society and donors alike to decide on priorities or next steps. This product offers a way for CP actors to identify what steps should be taken next.

[Full Article](#) (Relief Web)

2. Conferences, Courses and Events

Conference - 2nd National Child Wellbeing Conference: Access to Justice for Vulnerable Children

Access to justice is a fundamental principle in securing, promoting, and protecting the rights and wellbeing of children. The President's Foundation for the Wellbeing of Society works to create safe spaces in which people can come together in an atmosphere of dialogue, participation and inclusion. The Foundation is interested in learning what it is that gives people wellbeing, in order for this to be shared and further promoted and is convinced that access to justice is a cross-cutting component of wellbeing. This conference will explore access to justice from the child's perspective, giving particular attention to children who are vulnerable. The conference is open to NGOs, academics, and practitioners.

Location: Valletta, Malta

Date: 21st to 22nd of October 2016

Registration deadline: 14th of October 2016

[For more information](#) (The President's Foundation for the Wellbeing of Society)

Training - Online Certificate Course in Gender-based Violence

The overall purpose of the training programme is to increase participant's knowledge and understanding of the concept of gender, and gender-based violence, sexuality, and rights. It will further take a look at the various forms of gender-based violence and the core principles for a code of conduct, reporting mechanisms and developing a programmatic response.

Location: Online

Date: 26th of October to 25th of November 2016

Registration deadline: 24th of October 2016

[For more information](#) (Human Rights & Justice Group International)

Training - WASH and Nutrition

Nutrition is a key aspect in our day to day life. Sanitation related diseases affect the nutrition status of both children and adults which may consequently lead to many deaths and yet these

conditions can be managed nutritionally. This course is designed to equip the participants with knowledge on how to manage WASH related diseases nutritionally.

Location: Nairobi, Kenya

Date: 31st of October to 11th of November 2016

Registration deadline: 24th of October 2016

[For more information](#) (Network for Water and Sanitation)

Training - Achieving education 2030 and eliminating child labour

Child labour is a barrier to education for all. This course explores policy measures and programmes to remove the barriers to education that working children face.

Location: Turin, Italy

Date: 31st of October to 4th of November 2016

Registration deadline: 31st of October 2016

[For more information](#) (International Training Centre of the ILO)

Conference – Child in the City

The conference, which takes place every two years, is a key opportunity for children's professionals, city planners, geographers and policy makers to share knowledge, good practice and research findings from the various disciplines that are important to the shared aim of creating child friendly cities. It aims to promote collaboration within the child friendly city movement and to promote liveable, sustainable designs, services and projects that support the well-being of children and promote their active engagement in the life of their communities.

Location: Ghent, Belgium

Date: 7th to 8th of November 2016

[For more information](#) (Child in the City Foundation)

Conference - Children's Rights in Alternative Care: Walk the Talk!

The conference will serve as a platform for national and international stakeholders from the child protection area to start a dialogue on how to raise the capacity of the children's social care workforce and in particular care professionals on embedding child rights in their work. The training module produced by SOS Children's Villages together with national and international partners, as well as the experience gathered while implementing the project in eight European countries, will serve as starting point of a discussion which we hope will inspire decision makers in setting new standards for training care professionals, ultimately improving the quality of alternative care.

Location: Paris, France

Date: 8th to 9th of November 2016

[For more information](#) (SOS Villages d'Enfants – France)

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: 19th to 20th 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: 21st to 22nd of November 2016

Registration deadline: 16th of November 2016

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

3. Children and Armed Conflicts

Colombia – As Colombia Votes on Peace, Child Soldiers Struggle to Adapt

28th of September 2016 - They may call themselves the "generation of peace," but young Colombians are actually among those least likely to support their government's recent peace agreement with FARC rebels, which will be put to a plebiscite vote on October 2. Part of the reason, observers say, is that many young Colombians have not experienced the conflict as directly as their older compatriots.

[Full article](#) (Americas Quarterly)

Colombie – En marge de l'accord de paix entre les FARC et la Colombie, la psychologue Elsa Castaneda soigne les enfants de la guerre

26 septembre 2016 - Veste cintrée, cheveux mi- longs, regard bienveillant... Elsa Castañeda a entendu toutes les horreurs de la guerre de la bouche des plus fragiles : les enfants. Pourtant, à presque soixante ans elle n'a pas perdu espoir, au contraire : « *La première génération qui vivra dans un pays en paix est en train de voir le jour* ».

[Article complet](#) (TV5)

Colombia – Pasos de Héroe: Uplifting film tribute to child landmine victims

20th of September 2016 – We all have dreams. So do landmine victims. In his debut film “Pasos de Héroe,” Colombian director Henry Rincón shows the humanity of child war victims in a way not typically seen in cinema. The film tells the story of Eduardo, a 10-year-old boy who lost his leg to a landmine, and his determination to form a soccer team and enter his town’s local tournament despite his disability and opposition from his school’s director, who does everything to prevent the boy’s team from stepping on the pitch.

[Full article](#) (The city paper bogota)

Greece – Millions of children fleeing war ‘systematically denied’ basic rights

14th of September 2016 - Chronic underfunding of aid programmes is having a devastating impact on child refugees around the world, the charity War Child warns, with vulnerable children being “systematically denied” fundamental rights such as access to education or protection from forced marriage.

[Full article](#) (The Guardian)

Iran – Iranian Theme Park Teaches Children War Tactics

30th of September 2016 - Iran opened a military theme park this week designed to teach children as young as 8-years-old how to fight in a war and fire weapons at its perceived Western enemies. Located in a western suburb of the city of Mashad, the “Park of the Revolution’s Children” marks “Sacred Defense Week,” an annual commemoration of the Iran-Iraq war of the 1980s, according to a park brochure.

[Full article](#) (VOA News)

Iran – Aftermath of Iran-Iraq war: Leftover landmine kills child

6th of September 2016 - An Iranian child was killed in a landmine explosion near the city of Sardasht in the country’s northwestern province of West Azerbaijan, IRNA news agency reported Sept. 6. The incident happened yesterday, Sept. 5, as three children found a landmine remaining

from the Iran-Iraq war (1980-1988) near the border of Iraq and started playing with it, Mir Ashkan Mahdavi, a local official, said. As a result of the landmine's explosion, an 8-year-old boy was killed, while two other children were wounded.

[Full article](#) (Trend news agency)

Kazakhstan – Central Asian Children cast as IS executioners

22th of September 2016 - In the last ten days of August, IS issued two colourful magazines, one in French and one in Arabic, linking to more than 15 video and audio clips promoting violence and the brutal killing of prisoners and civilians. After thorough analysis of these materials one gets the impression that IS is trying to compensate for its military defeats with promotional activity. These videos often depict children from Central Asia as heroes who came to Syria with their parents and joined the IS youth fighting group, "Cubs of the Caliphate."

[Full article](#) (Dhaka tribune)

Lybia – Starving children are surviving on 'rotten food and dirty water' in war-torn Lybia

30th of September 2016 - Starving children surviving on rotten food and dirty water in Libya are turning into "skin and bone," human rights campaigners have warned. Hundreds of civilians trapped by fighting in Benghazi could die from lack of food and water as fighting between rival factions intensifies, says Amnesty International .

[Full article](#) (Mirror)

Netherlands – A former child soldier prosecuted at the International Criminal Court

26th of September 2016 – It's easy to assume that only 'evil' people commit atrocity. And it's equally easy to imagine the victims as 'good' or 'innocent'. But the reality is far more complex. Many perpetrators are tragic. They may begin as victims. Victims, too, may victimize others. These victims are imperfect. Some victims survive – and some even thrive – because of harm they inflict. The lines among victims and perpetrators tend to blur in the cataclysm of atrocity. What, then, to say about judgment, condemnation, punishment, and mercy?

[Full article](#) (Oup Blog)

Philippines – Ending the use of child soldiers in the Philippines

29th of September 2016 – The United Nations and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) have pledged to safeguard the rights of children and have implemented an action plan to ensure that children affected by armed conflicts are better protected. "We are committed to implementing

this program, which is for the good of our children," said Sammy Al-Mansor, Chief of Staff of MILF - Bangsamoro Islamic Armed Forces (BIAF).

[Full article](#) (DW News)

Sudan – Sudan frees 21 rebel child soldiers: UN

22th of September 2016 - Sudan has freed 21 child soldiers who were captured in war-torn Darfur last year during fighting between government troops and rebels, the United Nations said Thursday. Their release on Wednesday came just days after President Omar al-Bashir declared in North Darfur that he would order all detained children from the rebel side be freed. The child soldiers were captured in Darfur in 2015 during fighting between government troops and the rebel Justice and Equality Movement (JEM).

[Full article](#) (Yahoo)

Syria – Almost 100 children killed in Aleppo since Friday, UNICEF says

28th of September 2016 - The children of Aleppo are "trapped in a living nightmare," said Justin Forsyth, deputy executive director of the UN organization, in a statement on Wednesday. "There are no words left to describe the suffering they are experiencing."

[Full article](#) (CBC)

Syria – Syria conflict: as war rages, children in Aleppo play in pools left by bomb craters

30th of September 2016 - Syrian children swimming and playing in water-filled craters in east Aleppo have been filmed in footage released by activists in the besieged city. In the video three little boys jump into the murky water in their clothes, whooping as they do so. When asked how the pool got there, one says, "There was an attack on our neighbourhood. Some houses were set on fire, three of them."

[Full article](#) (The Independent)

Uganda – Uganda child soldiers: Rebuilding the broken

6th of September 2016 – When former child soldiers in Uganda return home, they often face communities that are reluctant to reintegrate them. As rebels, they only learnt how to kill and survive in the bush. Anwar Ricky wants to change that.

[Full article](#) (DW News)

United States of America – Six-year-old’s letter about child victim of Syrian war moves Obama

22th of September 2016 – In it, Alex, a six-year-old boy from New York, reads a letter he wrote to President Barack Obama, inviting a Syrian refugee to live with his family. Just like many people around the world, Alex was touched by images and video of Omran Daqneesh, dusty and bloodied, as he was being loaded into an emergency vehicle following a bomb attack in Aleppo, Syria.

[Full article](#) (Mashable)

United States of America – President Obama Fails Child Soldiers

29th of September 2016 – US President Barack Obama announced yesterday that he will allow several governments that recruit and use child soldiers to continue receiving US military assistance – aid that is supposedly subject to child soldier-related restrictions. The decision wasn’t unexpected. After all, it’s what he has done during his entire two terms in office.

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

Yemen – Yemen’s Children Deserve Better Than Being Soldiers for the War-Torn Nation

6th of September 2016 – In Yemen, conflict, violence and bloodshed are now a daily occurrence. In spite of ongoing human rights violations global media outlets have chosen to take a back seat and remain silent. Why has the grave severity of Yemen’s rising conflict been kept in the shadows rather than exposed as a recurrent headline?

[Full article](#) (The Wire)