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## Newsletter on Children's rights – Children and Armed Conflict

*November – December 2017*

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

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## 1. Global Development on Children and Human's Rights

### **[News] Pneumonia, world's deadliest disease, kills two children every minute**

November 2, 2017 – Nearly one million children a year are dying from pneumonia even though it can be treated with antibiotics costing as little as 30p Save the Children reveals today. The aid organisation is publishing a major report, *Fighting for Breath*, to mark the launch of its global effort against pneumonia, which aims to save a million lives in the next five years. The report shows that pneumonia, 'the forgotten child killer', is responsible for the deaths of more children under five than any other disease. It kills two children in this age group every minute-more than malaria, diarrhoea and measles combined.

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

### **[Communiqué de presse] Les taux de malnutrition chez les enfants rohingyas réfugiés au Bangladesh est deux fois supérieurs aux premières estimations**

3 novembre 2017 – L'UNICEF a annoncé aujourd'hui que les données préliminaires d'une évaluation nutritionnelle menée la semaine dernière au camp de Kutupalong pour personnes réfugiées à Cox's Bazar, au Bangladesh, indiquent une prévalence de 7,5 pour cent des cas de malnutrition sévère aiguë potentiellement mortelle, soit un taux deux fois plus élevé que celui observé en mai 2017 chez les enfants rohingyas.

[Article complet](#) (UNICEF)

### **[News] Brexit and Children's Rights: Implications for Wales**

November 10, 2017 – The event attracted almost 90 delegates from a range of organisations including NGOs, services providers, public sector services, academics, legal officials and a number of young people. Children in Wales, working in partnership with the Wales Observatory on the Human Rights of Children and Young People, presented a background paper on the potential impact of Brexit on children and young people's rights in Wales, in particular focussing on the loss of fundamental rights, loss of funding and the lack of opportunities for children and young people to have their voices heard.



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[Full article](#) (EuroChild)

## **[News] Save the children calls for end to corporal punishment in Afghanistan after death of a high school student**

November 15, 2017 – Save the Children is urging the Afghan government to properly enforce its corporal punishment ban following reports that a high school student died after facing violence at school. The reported incident took place in the northern Afghan province of Balk.

“This is a tragic, heartbreaking situation in which a child has died after reportedly facing violence at school, a place where children should be safe and protected, not fearing for their lives,” Save the Children Country Director in Afghanistan, Onno van Manen said.

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

## **[News] Submission to the United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child concerning Japan**

November 14, 2017 – Human Rights Watch writes in advance of the 79th pre-sessional working group of the Committee on the Rights of the Child and its review of Japan’s compliance with the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC). This submission focuses on children in alternative care; lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) rights and sex education in schools; and the protection of students, teachers, and schools during armed conflict, and relates to Articles 2, 19, 20, 24, 28, 29, and 38 of the CRC. It proposes issues and questions that Committee members may wish to raise with the government.

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

## **[News] Tobacco Companies Commit to Protect Child Workers Worldwide**

November 15, 2017 – Working on child labor, it often feels like there isn’t much good news. So when I learned recently about a new policy that could potentially protect millions of children from dangerous work on tobacco farms around the world, I couldn’t quite believe it. With a major change to an industry-wide due diligence program, the Sustainable Tobacco Program (STP), now at least 180 tobacco companies are pledging to prohibit all children under 18 from handling green tobacco on farms in their supply chains.



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The STP is used by major multinational manufacturers and leaf dealers as well as other tobacco companies operating in 52 countries, which combined are contracting with hundreds of thousands of farms worldwide.

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

### **[Nouvelles] Les enfants aborigènes subissent des traitements "choquants" en prison**

16 novembre 2017 – Les enfants aborigènes détenus dans les prisons pour mineurs du nord de l'Australie subissent des traitements "choquants", selon une enquête lancée après des vidéos montrant les violences subies par des adolescents membres pour la plupart de la communauté autochtone.

[Article complet](#) (Tahiti Info)

### **[Nouvelles] Viols généralisés de femmes et de filles rohingyas**

16 novembre 2017 – Les forces de sécurité birmanes ont commis des viols systématiques de femmes et de filles dans le cadre d'une campagne de nettoyage ethnique menée à l'encontre des musulmans rohingyas dans l'État de Rakhine (Arakan) en Birmanie, a déclaré Human Rights Watch dans un rapport publié aujourd'hui.

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

### **[News] The role of civil society in accountability systems: A human rights perspective**

November 20, 2017 – From girls in rural Afghanistan, to children in immigration detention on the US-Mexico border, to grandmothers fleeing war in Sri Lanka, throughout my career working on children's rights, I've heard firsthand the importance that education has for families and their children, even in the midst of the most desperate circumstances. These families expect their children to be able to access a quality education, and they have a right to do so. In light of this, I welcome the launch of the new Global Education Monitoring Report, especially its focus on accountability, which is a key element in building equitable and quality education systems.



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

### **[Press release] UNICEF statement on suicide of 11-year-old Afghan refugee in Austria**

November 22, 2017 – «The recent reported suicide» of an 11 year-old Afghan boy in a refugee facility in Austria is a tragic reminder that European authorities need to pay greater attention to the deep psychosocial distress facing thousands of refugee children and children on the move. “Children fleeing war and conflict or uprooted from their homes are already dealing with significant levels of trauma. Not knowing what the future holds for them causes them additional emotional distress and anxiety. For some, this is simply too much to bear.

[Full article](#) (UNICEF)

### **[Nouvelles] Une enquête a été ouverte à la suite d'informations d'Amnesty sur l'extraction de cobalt par des enfants**

23 novembre 2017 – Réagissant aux [informations](#) selon lesquelles, à la suite de la publication d'un rapport d'Amnistie internationale liant plusieurs grandes entreprises à des atteintes aux droits humains en RDC, la Bourse des métaux de Londres a ouvert une enquête visant à déterminer si du cobalt extrait par des enfants est négocié à Londres.

[Article complet](#) (Amnistie internationale)

### **[News] Russia court authorises seizure of outlawed sect children**

November 23, 2017 – Russia's Supreme Court has confirmed that children can be removed from their parents if they involve them in banned social or religious groups, in a move said by local media to be aimed against the outlawed Jehovah's Witnesses.

[Full article](#) (The tablet)



### **[News] Rohingya girls as young as 12 compelled to marry just to get food**

November 30, 2017 – Young Rohingya girls who have fled Myanmar are being forced to marry when they reach Bangladesh simply to secure more food for themselves and their families. With UN World Food Programme rations allocated by household, families are marrying off girls as young as 12 to reduce the number of mouths to feed and create new households with food quotas of their own, the Guardian has learned.

[Full article](#) (The Guardian)

### **[Rapport] La situation des enfants dans le monde 2017: Les enfants dans un monde numérique**

10 décembre 2017 – Alors que le débat sur la sécurité des enfants sur Internet fait rage, *La situation des enfants dans le monde 2017 : Les enfants dans un monde numérique* examine comment l'accès au numérique peut changer la donne ou tout aussi bien créer une nouvelle fracture pour les enfants.

[Rapport complet](#) (UNICEF)

### **[News] First National Children's Policy to be implemented by 2024**

December 11, 2017 – Consultation with over 300 children and a lot of data collection served as the basis for National Children's Policy. This is the first time that the Maltese government worked on such a policy.

[Full article](#) (Maltese Independent)





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## 2. Conferences, Courses and Events

### **Course – Resilience in Children Exposed to Trauma, Disaster and War: Global Perspectives**

During this course, participants will: learn how trauma can affect children and the systems they depend on, gain insight into core concepts, research methods and lessons learned in last 50 years of resilience research, learn how research is being applied in the real world through interventions that promote resilience, and engage in discussions with others who are working with children at risk around the world.

**Location:** Online

**Date:** Starts January 15, 2018

[For more information](#) (Coursera)

### **Conference – The impact of children’s rights education and research on policy development**

This is the bi-annual conference of the Children’s Rights European Academic Network (CREAN). CREAN aims to further enhance the academic field of children's rights as an interdisciplinary field of studies. The conference aims to carry on the dialogue on the role and impact of children’s rights education and research on policy development between academia and policy-makers.

**Location:** Uni Bastions, University of Geneva, Switzerland

**Date:** January 18-19, 2018

[For more information](#) (CREAN)

### **Congress – 18th Global Youth Justice Training Establish, Enhance and Learn**

Global Youth Justice, Inc. champions 1,700+ volunteer-driven youth justice and juvenile justice diversion programs called Teen/Youth/Student/Peer Court and Peer Jury on 4-Continents, making it the most replicated juvenile/youth justice program around the globe.



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**Location:** Las Vegas, USA

**Date:** January 23-25, 2018

[For more information](#) (Global Youth Justice)

## **Forum – Global Child Forum**

The Global Child Forum at the Stockholm Royal Palace on 11 April 2018 will bring together a global community of leaders from business, civil society, academia and government to fast-track business action and partnerships to achieve a more prosperous, equitable and sustainable world for our children.

**Location:** Stockholm, Sweden

**Date:** April 11, 2018

[For more information](#) (Global Child Forum)

## **Training – Child Rights Public Budgeting**

This short e-learning course introduces participants to concepts, principles, standards and practical examples of child rights public budgeting and monitoring. The course will address basics of child rights public budgeting and monitoring; the importance of budget transparency; obligations of governments; and possibilities for participation of civil society, including children.

**Location:** Online

**Date:** May 2-16, 2018

[For more information](#) (The Global Human Rights Education and Training Centre)

## **Colloque – 18e Colloque Annuel de Formation sur les enfants disparus ou exploités (CEDE)**

La 18<sup>e</sup> édition du CEDE, un grand colloque sur les enfants disparus ou exploités au Canada, organisé par le Centre canadien de protection de l'enfance. Le CEDE offre trois jours de formations données par des experts sur divers sujets, dont la détection et l'investigation des violences faites aux enfants et l'exploitation des enfants par Internet.



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**Emplacement** : Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada

**Dates** : 15 au 17 mai 2018

[Pour plus d'information](#) (Colloque sur les Enfants Disparus ou Exploités)

## **Conférence midi – L'expérience scolaire des élèves issus de l'immigration en milieux défavorisés**

Animée par Isabelle Archambault (Université de Montréal).

**Emplacement** : Institut universitaire Jeunes en difficultés, Montréal, Qc

**Date** : 5 juin 2017

[Pour plus d'information](#) (Institut universitaire Jeunes en difficultés)

## **Cours d'été international – Petite enfance et droit à l'éducation**

Le thème de la septième édition du cours d'été international relatif aux droits de l'enfant portera sur la petite enfance et le droit à l'éducation : les tout-petits et leurs droits à la lumière des articles 28 et 29 de la Convention internationale relative aux droits de l'enfant.

**Emplacement** : Université de Moncton, Canada

**Dates** : 24 au 29 juin 2018

[Pour plus d'information](#) (Université de Moncton)



### **3. Sub-Regional and Country updates – Children and Armed Conflict**

#### **Colombia – Colombia: Reintegration of released children should be everyone's priority**

November 22, 2017 – The implementation of the child protection measures included in the Colombian Peace Agreement between the Government and the FARC-EP is encouraging and lessons can be drawn from that process said the Special Representative of the Secretary-General (SRSG) for Children and Armed Conflict, Ms. Virginia Gamba, following a two-day visit in Colombia where she met Government and civil society representatives, members of the Catholic Church and UN partners.

[Full article](#) (SRSG for Children and Armed conflict)

#### **Mondial – L'ONU qualifie de honte mondiale les souffrances infligées aux enfants en temps de conflit**

1er novembre 2017 – "Nous voyons des enfants stigmatisés pour avoir été recrutés et utilisés par des groupes armés. Nous voyons des enfants tenus pénalement responsables d'actes qu'ils ont été forcés à commettre. Et nous voyons des parties à un conflit entraver souvent l'acheminement d'une aide vitale pour les enfants", a déploré M. Guterres lors de la présentation au Conseil de son rapport sur le sort des enfants en temps de conflit armé.

[Article complet](#) (Algérie Presse Service)

#### **Mondial – Canada et opérations de maintien de la paix: «La montagne accouche d'une souris», selon un expert**

16 novembre 2017 - Le Canada a partiellement levé le voile sur son réengagement au sein des opérations de maintien de la paix des Nations unies, hier. L'annonce, qui était attendue depuis l'élection des libéraux, il y a deux ans, en a laissé plusieurs sur leur



faim. Ottawa veut de plus s'investir dans la protection des enfants-soldats et la formation des militaires à cette réalité en adoptant, à l'occasion de ce sommet, les Principes de Vancouver. François Audet souligne pour sa part que la protection des enfants dans les conflits n'a «rien de nouveau», que «la Convention de Genève et les Principes de Paris prévoient déjà ça».

[Article complet](#) (La Presse)

### **Mondial – Thierry Saudejaud d’UNICEF France à Grenoble : “200 morts en Irak, c’est un entrefilet ... »**

21 novembre 2017 – L’exploitation par le travail, sexuelle, mais également dans les conflits armés, ce que l’on appelait autrefois les “enfants soldats”. Aujourd’hui, on parle plutôt d’enfants enrôlés dans des conflits armés car tous ne sont pas soldats. Certains servent d’esclaves domestiques et sexuels, sur le continent africain, mais aussi en Asie.

[Article complet](#) (Place Gre’net)

### **Philippines – Children and armed conflict**

November 7, 2017 – My delegation wishes to thank the UN Secretary General and his Special Representative on Children and Armed Conflict for their proactive work in preventing and promoting, monitoring and ensuring accountability with regard to grave violations committed against children in armed conflicts.

[Full statement](#) (BusinessMirror)

### **République Démocratique du Congo – Réintégration difficile pour les filles des groupes armés dans l’est de la RDC**

28 novembre 2017 – Les filles anciennement associées aux groupes armés sont difficilement acceptées quand elles réintègrent la vie civile. C’est ce que révèle une enquête de l’ONG Child Soldier International. L’ONG britannique a, avec d’autres ONG congolaises, interviewé plus de 150 jeunes filles sorties des groupes armés dans cette région de la RDC où, selon l’Unicef, plus de 70 groupes armés restent actifs et continuent à recruter des enfants.



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[Article complet](#) (VOA Afrique)

## **Somalia – Somalia seeks ways of preventing recruitment and use of child soldiers in armed conflict**

December 1, 2017 - The Federal Government of Somalia and federal member states want swift action taken in addressing the use of child soldiers in armed conflict in the country. Key representatives from the two levels of government meet in Kampala, Uganda to brainstorm on how to prevent the recruitment of; and use of children in armed conflict. The one-week forum held from 26 – 30 November 2017, under the auspices of the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM), provides an avenue for various government departments including the security sector to interface alongside AMISOM military, in coming up with tangible solutions to the problem.

[Full article](#) (Relief Web)

## **South Sudan – S. Sudan army officers urged to protect children in armed conflict**

November 1, 2017 – Senior South Sudanese army (SPLA) officers have been urged to show leadership by ensuring their troops protect children caught up in armed conflict and also prevent recruitment and use of children as fighters in war.

[Full article](#) (Sudan Tribune)

## **Syria – The UN Secretary General Report on Children and Armed Conflict Doesn't Accurately Reflect the Atrocious Reality in Syria**

November 16, 2017 – SNHR has stressed in a report released today that the U.N. Secretary General report does not accurately reflect the gravity of the atrocities of the Syrian crisis. The report, entitled: “Syria is the World’s Worst Country in Terms of Child Mortality” notes that the U.N. Secretary General report has shed light on the toll the armed conflict had on children, and included the violations by the parties to the conflict -government



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forces, and other pro-government groups or anti-government groups- against children in a number of countries in 2016 including Syria.

[Full article](#) (Syrian Network for Human Rights)

## **Worldwide – Monthly news round-up: UN publishes child soldier list; CAR sexual violence revealed; and more...**

November 1, 2017 – A selection of news stories concerning child soldiers which have appeared in international media over the past month.

[Full review](#) (Child Soldiers)

## **Worldwide – Report of the Secretary-General on trafficking in persons in armed conflict pursuant to Security Council resolution 2331 (2016)**

November 16, 2017 – In its resolution 2331 (2016), the Security Council unanimously condemned all instances of trafficking in persons in areas affected by armed conflicts as a violation of the victims' human rights, potentially amounting to war crimes, and as acts that undermine the rule of law, finance and drive the recruitment of terrorist groups, exacerbate conflict and undermine development. In the resolution, the Council called upon Member States to ratify legal instruments, investigate, disrupt and dismantle trafficking networks, analyse the links between trafficking and the financing of terrorism, and implement robust mechanisms for the identification of victims so as to provide them with protection and assistance.

[Full report](#) (Relief Web)

## **Worldwide – Stop The Use And Abuse Of Children In And For Armed Conflict**

November 20, 2017 – We have the tools and resources to protect children better, but we have failed to do so. Throughout the ages, children have been used and abused in many ways – from cheap labour to enslavement, maiming, torture, rape and murder. Although slow to come, international pressure built momentum over time leading to ground-breaking commitments such as the decision, 28 years ago today, to adopt the Convention



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on the Rights of the Child. Its application at national levels might not always be consistent; nevertheless, there is hope for children in its continued implementation. But this hope is denied to a special group of children: the millions living in situations of armed conflict.

[Full article](#) (Huffington post)

### **Worldwide – Children on the move have rights too – joint statement marking the 28th anniversary of the Convention on the Rights of the Child”**

November 20, 2017 – On Universal Children’s Day, UN child rights experts call on all Governments to safeguard the rights of children on the move. The Convention on the Rights of the Child is the most widely ratified human rights treaty and is further strengthened by its three Optional Protocols on the involvement of children in armed conflict; the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography; and on a communications procedure.

[Full article](#) (SRSG Children and Armed conflict)

### **Worldwide – War is still a matter of children**

November 20, 2017 – With shocks, but received as if they were victories. The UN has just eliminated from its terrible "list of shame" the Armed Forces of the Republic of the Congo, which is equivalent to saying that this army has stopped recruiting minors. In spite of being a practice prohibited by all the laws of humanitarian law, not all the countries have added to the treaties. Without going any further, the UK allows the enlistment of 17-year-old boys, although they are not allowed to go into action until they are of legal age.

[Full article](#) (Child Soldiers)

### **Worldwide – US Officials Call Out Tillerson on Child Soldiers**

November 21, 2017 – When US Secretary of State Rex Tillerson excluded Iraq, Burma, and Afghanistan from the State Department’s list of countries using child soldiers earlier this year, my colleagues and I at Human Rights Watch were angry. It turns out we weren’t the





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only ones. Today, Reuters reported a rare “dissent memo” from State Department officials, accusing Tillerson of contravening US law by excluding the three countries.

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