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المكتب الدولي لحقوق الطفل

Newsletter on Children's rights – Sub-Saharan Africa

January 2017

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

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1. Global Development on Children and Human's rights

[News] Medical smart jacket tackles misdiagnosis of pneumonia

1st January 2017 - Jacket would distinguish pneumonia's symptoms up to four times faster than a doctor, in battle against illness that kills half a million children under five in sub-Saharan Africa every year. Ugandan graduate Brian Turyabagye was studying engineering when his friend's grandmother fell seriously ill. Accompanying her to hospital, he watched as doctors diagnosed malaria and prescribing various treatments accordingly. Only as she lay dying did they realise their initial diagnosis was wrong. It was pneumonia that was killing her.

[Full Article](#) (The guardian)

[Nouvelles] Le HCR exhorte les Etats membres de l'UE à respecter leurs engagements de relocalisation de demandeurs d'asile

6 janvier 2017 - Alors que la situation sur les îles grecques est de plus en plus critique en période hivernale, le Haut-Commissariat des Nations Unies pour les réfugiés (HCR) a rappelé vendredi aux pays de l'Union européenne (UE) qu'il demeure impératif de contribuer à résoudre d'urgence la situation en Grèce moyennant la relocalisation de demandeurs d'asile dans d'autres Etats membres.

Lors d'un point de presse à Genève, le porte-parole du HCR, Adrian Edwards, a précisé qu'en date du 4 janvier 2017, seulement 7.760 demandeurs d'asile avaient quitté la Grèce ou faisaient partie des départs programmés dans le cadre du mécanisme de relocalisation de l'UE adopté fin 2015 pour deux ans.

[Article complet](#) (Centre d'actualité de l'ONU)

[News] UNICEF #EarlyMomentsMatter campaign promotes investments in early childhood development

10th January 2017 – Today marks the launch of a new United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) campaign, #EarlyMomentsMatter, aimed at raising awareness about the critical impact that early experiences have on children's brain development during their first 1,000 days of life.

Before the age of three, human brain cells make up to 1,000 new connections every second, a speed that slows later in life. These connections ensure that children's brains continue to grow and lay the foundation for future learning, health and happiness. These brain connections cannot



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reach their full potential without nurturing care, including adequate nutrition, stimulation, love, and protection from stress and violence.

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

[Nouvelles] Promotion des droits des enfants : rôle essentiel du Parlement

11 janvier 2017 - Le représentant de l'UNICEF (Fonds des Nations Unies pour l'enfance) a indiqué mercredi que l'organisation entendait développer sa coopération avec l'Assemblée nationale.

'Les parlements ont le pouvoir de créer des changements réels et durables en faveur des enfants. Ils peuvent par leur vote allouer des ressources supplémentaires aux budgets nationaux et établir des orientations stratégiques solides, débattre, façonner et appliquer des lois qui protègent les enfants', a expliqué Isselmou Boukhary.

[Article complet](#) (République Togolaise)

[Nouvelles] UE : Un repli sur soi qui met en péril les droits humains

12 janvier 2017 - L'Union européenne et ses États membres ont porté atteinte à des valeurs fondamentales inhérentes aux droits humains en s'attaquant aux multiples défis auxquels l'Union a été confrontée en 2016, a déclaré Human Rights Watch aujourd'hui dans son Rapport mondial 2017 (version abrégée en français).

Human Rights Watch souligne les développements dans 10 pays membres de l'UE et l'évolution de la situation à travers l'Union dans les domaines de la migration et de l'asile, de la discrimination et de l'intolérance, du terrorisme et de la lutte contre le terrorisme, ainsi qu'en matière de politique étrangère de l'UE.

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

[Nouvelles] Europe : le HCR exhorte les gouvernements à aider davantage les réfugiés et migrants à affronter l'hiver

13 janvier 2017 - Le Haut-Commissariat des Nations Unies pour les réfugiés (HCR) a exhorté les gouvernements européens à faire davantage pour aider et protéger les réfugiés et les migrants de plus en plus vulnérables en cette période hivernale. « Le sauvetage des vies doit être une priorité », a déclaré vendredi la porte-parole du HCR, Cécile Pouilly lors d'un point de presse à Genève, précisant que l'agence a renforcé son aide dans plusieurs pays, dont la Grèce et la Serbie.

[Article complet](#) (Centre d'actualité de l'ONU)



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[News] In the fight against human trafficking, child soldiers get ignored

13th January 2017 - To bring public attention to a criminal practice that continues to harm millions around the world, Congress named Jan. 11 "National Human Trafficking Awareness Day." The United States leads the world in efforts to end forced labor and modern slavery, devoting resources to protect and assist victims, creating laws to crack down on traffickers, and encouraging other countries to do the same.

[Full article \(The Hill\)](#)

[Nouvelles] L'ONU alerte sur la fragilisation des droits de l'enfant dans un contexte de turbulences

16 janvier 2017 - A l'ouverture des travaux de la 74e session du Comité des droits de l'enfant lundi à Genève, la Haute-Commissaire adjointe des Nations Unies aux droits de l'homme, Kate Gilmore, a attiré l'attention sur l'impact dévastateur de l'aggravation des migrations internationales et de la crise des réfugiés sur les droits de millions d'enfants à travers le monde. « Un migrant sur huit est un enfant », a rappelé Mme Gilmore, avant d'ajouter que 26 millions d'enfants sont déplacés à cause des conflits.

[Article complet \(Centre d'actualité de l'ONU\)](#)

[News] Ongoing violations of child rights highlighted as UN monitoring body opens annual session

16th January 2017 – Children face the ongoing violations of their rights worldwide, including poverty, violence and discrimination against them, a senior United Nations human rights official told the body that monitors implementation of a global treaty on the matter.

"Indeed, your achievements and the challenges you face sit against a disturbing background of ongoing violations of the rights of children," Kate Gilmore, Deputy High Commissioner for Human Rights, said at the opening in Geneva of the 74th session of the Committee on the Rights of the Child, which will run through 3 February 2017.

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



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[Nouvelles] Des millions d'enfants subissent des violences à l'école chaque année, selon l'UNESCO

17 janvier 2017 - Un tiers des enfants entre 11 et 13 ans disent avoir été harcelés à l'école et 8% évoquent des harcèlements quotidiens, selon des données concernant 19 pays présentées dans un rapport de l'Organisation des Nations Unies pour l'éducation, la science et la culture (UNESCO). Ce rapport intitulé 'Violence et harcèlement à l'école : Rapport sur la situation dans le monde', a été présenté mardi lors d'un colloque à Séoul, en Corée du Sud, par l'UNESCO et l'Institut de prévention de la violence scolaire de l'Université féminine Ewha, basée à Séoul.

[Article complet](#) (Centre d'actualité de l'ONU)

[News] What's next in the fight against child trafficking

18th January 2017 - The past few years have marked many victories for advocates and survivors of the illegal trafficking of boys, girls, women and men. (Trafficking includes violence, abuse, sexual exploitation, forced labor and the use of children as soldiers.) This month, which President Obama proclaimed "National Slavery and Human Trafficking Prevention Month," we take a moment to celebrate how far we have come.

Human trafficking was explicitly mentioned in three of the world's Sustainable Development Goals, for instance, adding it prominently to the global agenda. Last month, the U.N. Security Council also unanimously adopted a resolution condemning human trafficking in the strongest terms.

[Full Article](#) (Forbes)

[News] 'If children are vulnerable, they deserve protection'

23th January 2017 - Asylum-seeking children who go missing are falling prey to trafficking and sex slavery and policymakers have a duty to protect them, the director general of the President's Foundation for the Wellbeing of Society has said. Ruth Farrugia said that authorities seemed to labour under the illusion that children who fall off the radar have somehow landed in Eden. "Sometimes the attitude has been 'oh, we've got one less child to worry about'; it's as if we don't want to dwell on how they may have landed in criminal hands, hoping they had reached their destination safely," Dr Farrugia said.

[Full Article](#) (Times of Malta)



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[Nouvelles] Un plan contre les violences faites aux enfants présenté le 1er mars

23 janvier 2017 - Lors de ses voeux aux professionnels et à la presse, lundi 23 janvier, la ministre de l'enfance, des familles et des droits des femmes, Laurence Rossignol, a annoncé pour le 1er mars un premier plan de lutte contre les violences faites aux enfants. La question de la prévention des violences sera au centre de ce plan, qui viendra en complément de la loi sur la protection de l'enfant du 14 mars 2016, et de la feuille de route de juin 2015. Il traitera aussi de l'« accès à la pornographie par des mineurs ».

[Article complet](#) (La croix)

[News] – Annual Report to the Human Rights Council: Major Achievements Despite Ongoing Violations of Children’s Rights 20 Years After the Creation of the Mandate of the SRSG for Children and Armed Conflict

24th January 2017 - In her annual report to the Human Rights Council, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict highlighted the progress accomplished since the creation of her mandate twenty years ago, but also urged Member States and parties to conflict to take immediate action to end persistent grave violations against children. “Despite notable advances achieved in the past two decades, the basic rights of children continue to be regularly violated,” said Leila Zerrougui. “For example, in Afghanistan, Iraq, Nigeria, Syria, South Sudan and Yemen, thousands of children are killed, maimed, recruited and used, and face acute humanitarian crises.”

[Full Article](#) (Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary General for Children and Armed Conflict)

[Nouvelles] «La Cour européenne des droits de l'homme protège enfin les droits des enfants !»

25 janvier 2017 - Un Etat n'a pas à reconnaître comme parents les personnes ayant acheté un enfant: voici, en substance, ce qui résulte de la décision rendue hier, le 24 janvier 2017, par la Cour européenne des droits de l'homme dans l'affaire opposant à l'Italie deux de ses ressortissants, Paradiso et Campanelli. Il aura quand même fallu cet arrêt de la grande chambre pour invalider une décision rendue en simple chambre il y a un an dans la même affaire et qui disait.... exactement l'inverse! Si les droits de l'homme et sans doute ceux de la femme se portent bien, il n'en va visiblement pas de même des droits de l'enfant, même si cette affaire pourrait marquer un avant et un après dans la prise en considération, enfin!, des droits de l'enfant comme limite à la réalisation des désirs des adultes.

[Article complet](#) (Le figaro)



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2. Conferences, Courses and Events

Atelier – Camp de jeunes pour favoriser le leadership pour lutter contre le changement climatique

Le camp des jeunes pour favoriser le leadership pour lutter contre le changement climatique est une coopération conjointe entre l'UNITAR et le Bureau de l'UNESCO à Jakarta. C'est une deuxième phase du Projet de renforcement des ressources humaines, de l'apprentissage et du développement des compétences pour lutter contre le changement climatique. L'activité principale de ce projet est l'organisation d'un camp de 3 jours visant à sensibiliser les jeunes indonésiens sur le changement climatique, qui joueront un rôle majeur dans la transition vers des modes de vie.

Emplacement: Medan, Cibodas, Lampung

Date: Février 4 - février 26, 2017

[Plus d'informations \(UNESCO\)](#)

Vacancy – Advocacy Officer

Are you experienced in human rights advocacy? Do you want to be part of a small dynamic team making a big difference? We are seeking a new Advocacy Officer to join us in our London office! As Advocacy Officer you will support all aspects of our advocacy work going forward, primarily focusing on promoting national-level implementation of the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child's forthcoming General Comment on children in street situations. In particular, you will support development of a Global Atlas – which will become the 'go-to' online source for data on street-connected children and the laws that affect their lives – ensuring a quality product and liaising with the pro bono lawyers researching laws which affect street-connected children.

Location: London

Deadline: February 5th, 2017

[For more information \(Consortium for street children\)](#)

Training – Children's Human Rights – an Interdisciplinary introduction

Drawing on the contributions of several academic disciplines including law, psychology, sociology, history, educational and health sciences, economy and anthropology, an interdisciplinary approach guides the student into a selection of critical issues concerning



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children's rights. Participants will gain insight relative to the development of this specific human rights category, as well as to the evolution of the challenges faced by children over time and society's efforts to respond. Successful international strategies and programs promoting children's rights will be highlighted, as well as the role of key actors involved in international organizations working in this field.

Location: On-line

Date: February 6th, 2017

Registration deadline: February 6th, 2017

[For more information](#) (University of Geneva)

Training – 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: On-line

Date: February 15th to March 28th, 2017

Registration deadline: February 15th, 2017

[For more information](#) (The global human rights education and training centre)

Atelier – Formation de renforcement des capacités des responsables de jeunesse pour sensibiliser l'opinion publique aux personnes sans patrie en Asie centrale
L'UNESCO et le Haut Commissariat des Nations Unies pour les réfugiés (UNHCR) au Kazakhstan organisent une campagne de sensibilisation auprès des jeunes afin d'accroître leur niveau d'alphabétisation sur l'apatriodie en Asie centrale, et de leur apprendre davantage sur les outils de prévention afin de réduire les difficultés pour les générations futures.

Emplacement: Kazakhstan

Date: Février 17, 2017

[Plus d'informations](#) (UNESCO)



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Master of Laws – Advanced Studies in International Children’s Rights

The Master of Laws: Advanced Studies in International Children’s Rights is a one of a kind program, offering an advanced master (LL.M) dedicated to the rights and interests of children from a legal perspective. Today – more than 25 years after the adoption of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child – the role of international, regional and domestic systems in issues of child protection, participation and empowerment is ever-growing, and requires in-depth specialization.

Location: Leiden, The Netherlands

Date: September, 2017 (1 year program)

Registration deadline: 1 April 2017 (non-EU students) / 15 June 2017 (EU students)

[For more information](#) (Leiden University)

Training – Child rights governance

Children’s rights will not be implemented without open, inclusive and accountable governance. Children need more money better spent, functioning government systems designed to further the best interests of children, more accountability and oversight in service provision, recognition that children have civil rights and freedoms and an acknowledgment that child rights is political and political will (and pressure) will be needed to advance them. This e-learning course introduces participants to concepts, principles, standards and practical examples of child rights governance. Participants will be presented with research and case studies, and engage in practical exercises to inspire thinking around how they can advance children’s rights through open, inclusive and accountable governance.

Location: On-line

Date: May 3 to June 13, 2017

Registration deadline: 1st March, 2017

[For more information](#) (The global human rights education and training centre)

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.



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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)

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)

3. Subregional and Country updates

Chad, Cameroon, Niger and Nigeria – “Hopeless” suffering in Lake Chad as children starve, mothers sell sex to survive – Red Cross

January 5th, 2017 - Women in the Lake Chad basin have been forced to sell sex to survive due to an insurgency by Boko Haram fighters that has driven millions from their homes and left children to starve, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) said on Thursday.

[Full article](#) (Reuters)



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Gambia – Children’s needs central to response as Gambia uncertainty continues

January 19th, 2017 - As the Gambia faces an uncertain political transition, the situation raises concerns for the nearly 26,000 people – half of them children – who have left the country to neighbouring Senegal. The threat of unrest has also left thousands of children in the Gambia without access to education following the closure of schools in parts of the country.

[Full article \(UNICEF\)](#)

Kenya – Why Polio Campaigns Must Reach Every Last Child in Kenya

January 20th, 2017 - For a long time, no person in Kenya suffered the devastating disability that is caused by polio. In fact, the only reminder in the early 2000s was the victims in the streets of Nairobi, many of whom had been paralyzed as children and adults. Their lives were ravaged by this terrible, vaccine-preventable disease.

[Full article \(Reliefweb\)](#)

Lesotho – Mobile technology takes fight against HIV in Lesotho to the people

January 2nd, 2017 - Maboe Ntsime remembers well the ordeal she used to go through to receive the regular treatment she and her six-year-old son, Motsamai, depend on as people living with HIV.

[Article complet \(the Guardian\)](#)

Malawi – Lifting the Roof: How a New Effort Could Change Everything for Girls in Malawi

January 18th, 2017 - The man who raped Maureen was a friend of her father's. At the age of 11, she had left her home to work as a “house girl” for this family friend. In return, he purchased food for her family and paid Maureen's school fees, which can be a barrier to education for girls in Malawi. “We used to call him our uncle because of the good relationship they had,” the young Malawian woman said last year. But then everything went wrong. “His wife went out for a night, and that night he raped me,” Maureen said. “I didn't tell anyone. I had no one to talk to.” Maureen finally spoke up about what happened after seeing a presentation about child abuse. After organizers of the presentation helped her access post-rape care, however, Maureen's nightmare seemed to get worse instead of better. The man who raped her had given her HIV/AIDs. In Malawi, HIV is a major problem -- 10 percent of the population has the disease -- and it's made worse by stigma. For Maureen, discrimination from her family and her community



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derailed her life. Fortunately, she also continued to learn about the disease, and the more she learned, the more she felt she had to say something. "There's been too much silence," she said. Today, Maureen is an activist in Malawi. She speaks out against gender-based violence and tells HIV-positive young people to find a friend to confide in. She encourages parents to develop strong relationships with their children and advocates for policymakers to expand access to post-rape care.

[Full article \(Reliefweb\)](#)

Nigeria – Nigeria faces mounting pressure to rescue girls abducted by Boko Haram 1,000 days ago

January 11th, 2017 - Nigeria is facing mounting pressure to find some 200 schoolgirls abducted 1,000 days ago in Boko Haram's most infamous attack after the rescue of 24 girls raised hopes that they are alive. For more than two years there was no sign of the girls who were kidnapped by the Islamist fighters from a school in Chibok in northeast Nigeria one night in April 2014, sparking global outrage and a celebrity-backed campaign #bringbackourgirls.

[Full article \(Reuters\)](#)

Nigeria – ICRC surgical teams caring for wounded after air strikes

January 20th, 2017 - Three days after air strikes at a settlement for internally displaced people at Rann in Nigeria, two surgical teams from the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) with the help of one Nigerian surgeon continue to care for those wounded in the blasts. Around 100 injured people were evacuated from Rann to Maiduguri. Two surgical teams in Maiduguri have been operating on the most seriously wounded, including more than 20 children.

[Full article \(ICRC\)](#)

Nigeria – Malnutrition Wiping Out Children in Northern Nigeria, Aid Workers Say

January 23rd, 2017 - Starvation in northern Nigeria's Borno State is so bad that a whole slice of the population — children under 5 — appears to have died, aid agencies say. As the Nigerian army has driven the terrorist group Boko Haram out of the area, about two million people have been displaced.

[Full article \(New York Times\)](#)



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République centrafricaine – Le Comité des Droits de l'Enfant examine le rapport de la République centrafricaine

20 janvier 2017 - Le Comité des droits de l'enfant a examiné aujourd'hui le rapport périodique présenté par la République centrafricaine sur les mesures prises par le pays pour donner effet aux dispositions de la Convention relative aux droits de l'enfant.

[Article complet](#) (Office des Nations Unies à Genève)

République Démocratique du Congo – 1000 jours pour assurer l'avenir de nos enfants

18 janvier 2017 - Pour le développement cérébral des enfants, les premiers moments comptent. L'UNICEF a lancé #LesPremiersMomentsComptent, une nouvelle campagne soutenue par la Fondation LEGO destinée à sensibiliser davantage sur l'importance des 1000 premiers jours de la vie d'un enfant et sur les répercussions des premières expériences sur le développement cérébral.

[Article complet](#) (UNICEF RDC)

République Démocratique du Congo – La malédiction des enfants sorciers

19 janvier 2017 - En RDC, des milliers d'enfants accusés de sorcellerie sont maltraités et contraints de vivre dans la rue. Un phénomène largement ignoré par les populations et les autorités publiques. Enquête.

[Article complet](#) (UNICEF RDC)

République Démocratique du Congo – Le Comité des droits de l'enfant examine les rapports de la République démocratique du Congo

19 janvier 2017 - Le Comité des droits de l'enfant a examiné, hier après-midi et aujourd'hui les rapports présentés par la République démocratique du Congo au titre de la Convention relative aux droits de l'enfant et de son Protocole facultatif sur la vente d'enfants, la prostitution des enfants et la pornographie mettant en scène des enfants.

[Article complet](#) (Haut-Commissariat des Nations Unies aux Droits de l'Homme)



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Somalia – Somalia: New Report Details Troubling Violations Against Children

January 17th, 2017 - In a new report on the impact of armed conflict on children in Somalia, the United Nations Secretary-General describes how grave violations against boys and girls were committed with impunity over the course of several years. This was due in part to the breakdown in law and order and the absence of state authority in large parts of the country.

[Full article](#) (Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary General for Children and Armed Conflict)

South Sudan – South Sudan Is a Forgotten Children's Catastrophe

January 18th, 2017 - Three years of conflict in South Sudan have taken a massive toll on the lives of millions of children and women across the country. As a result of the violence that erupted in December, 2013, nearly 3.1 million South Sudanese have been forced to flee their homes, with children representing about half of all those who are displaced. More than 9,000 children are registered as being separated from their families, and more than 17,000 are believed to have been recruited by armed actors since the conflict commenced.

[Full article](#) (The Huffington Post)