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## Newsletter on Children's rights – MENA

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

10<sup>th</sup> 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



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and lay the foundation for future learning, health and happiness. These brain connections cannot 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**

13<sup>th</sup> 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 74<sup>e</sup> 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**

16<sup>th</sup> 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 74<sup>th</sup> 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 vœux 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 5<sup>th</sup>, 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 6<sup>th</sup>, 2017

**Registration deadline:** February 6<sup>th</sup>, 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 15<sup>th</sup> to March 28<sup>th</sup>, 2017

**Registration deadline:** February 15<sup>th</sup>, 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'apatridie 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'informations](#) (Institut Bioforce)

## **3. Subregional and Country updates**

### **Afghanistan – Humanitarian Action for Children 2017**

10<sup>th</sup> January 2017 - The armed conflict and rising insecurity in Afghanistan forced 245,000 people to flee their homes in 2016, bringing the cumulative number of internally displaced people to 1.1 million. Although more than 600,000 Afghan refugees returned from Pakistan and Iran by early December, most have not yet resettled into their respective communities due to insecurity.

[Full article](#) (ReliefWeb)



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### **Afghanistan – Torkham: A humanitarian success story**

11<sup>th</sup> January 2017 - In Torkham, Afghanistan, not many children had access to education. Since 2006, in collaboration with local NGOs, Terre des hommes has introduced and developed educational and recreational activities, psychological support and protection for these children. At the end of 2016, four schools were opened. It is now time for us to hand over our activities to the community.

[Full article](#) (Terre des Hommes)

### **Afghanistan – Schools Focus of Conflict in Afghan Province**

13<sup>th</sup> January 2017 - Children are being denied access to education in the central Afghanistan province of Maidan Wardak by a combination of conflict, poverty and conservative tradition, according to speakers at an IWPR event in the provincial capital Maidan Shahr.

[Full article](#) (Institute for Peace and War Reporting)

### **Afghanistan – Afghan Schools Used as Military Bases By Government, Taliban**

26<sup>th</sup> January 2017 - Afghan education authorities are concerned about the use of schools for military purposes by militant groups and Afghan security forces, a practice they say puts children at risk and deprives them of an education.

[Full article](#) (ReliefWeb)

### **Iraq – Closure of Iraq charity puts rescued Yazidi sex slaves at risk, director warns**

4<sup>th</sup> January 2017 - The closure of a charity providing treatment for trauma to Yazidi sex slaves rescued from Islamic State militants in northern Iraq will damage their chances of recovery, the charity's head said on Wednesday. The Yazidi-led charity Yazda, based in the Iraqi Kurdistan city of Dohuk, had been providing aid and mental healthcare since 2014 to Yazidi women and girls who have been raped and enslaved by IS.

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



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## **Jordan and Syria – UNESCO and Procter & Gamble partner to rebuild confidence of refugee girls through education**

18<sup>th</sup> January 2017 - Changing the World of Refugee Girls Through Education”: this is the aim of a partnership between Procter & Gamble (P&G), UNESCO and Save the Children showcased during the World Economic Forum’s annual meeting in Davos, on 17 January.

[Full article](#) (UNESCO)

## **Pakistan – Girls Trapped in Cycle of Servitude at Pakistan’s Brick Kilns**

17<sup>th</sup> January 2017 - Driven by poverty and lack of education, hundreds of thousands of Pakistanis are forced to take loans from brick kiln owners and spend a lifetime working off what they owe. The debt then usually passes on to their children, even to girls as young as five years old.

[Full article](#) (News Deeply)

## **Syria – UNICEF launches interactive glimpse into Syrian children’s struggle for education**

23<sup>rd</sup> January 2017 - A new interactive documentary providing an intimate look into the lives of Syrian school-aged children living as refugees in Lebanon was launched by UNICEF today. #ImagineaSchool provides a first-hand account of the challenges Syrian refugees face in their struggle to access education.

[Full article](#) (UNICEF)

## **Syria – Save the Children: Astana Syria talks happening in a ‘parallel reality’ as children continue to live under bombing and siege**

23<sup>rd</sup> January 2017 - As parties to the conflict in Syria meet in Astana, Kazakhstan today [Monday], Save the Children is warning that hundreds of thousands of children are still trapped and being bombed and denied aid in besieged and hard-to-reach areas. More than two weeks after the start of a partial truce, there has been an appalling lack of progress on aid deliveries, underlining the risk that these talks will focus on narrow military and political gains at the expense of helping the most vulnerable.

[Full article](#) (ReliefWeb)



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## **Syria – Joint Statement on Syria- WFP, UNICEF, OCHA, WHO, UNHCR**

16th January 2017– While efforts to fully implement a ceasefire in Syria continue, we again appeal for immediate, unconditional, and safe access to reach the children and families who are still cut off from humanitarian aid across the country.

[Full article](#) (UNICEF)

## **Syria – Almost No Aid Has Reached Syria’s Besieged Areas Despite ‘Truce’: Save The Children**

13<sup>th</sup> January 2017 - Two weeks on from the start of the ceasefire agreement in Syria brokered by Russia and Turkey on 30<sup>th</sup> December, the majority of besieged areas have yet to receive any humanitarian aid despite the freezing winter conditions.

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

## **Syria – Syrian child refugees taught to release stress and resist recruitment**

2<sup>nd</sup> January 2017 - The screams of a dozen Syrian and Palestinian children pierce the air of a community centre in Lebanon's Shatila refugee camp. Yet the children are not hurt. They are yelling to express the anger and fear they feel as victims of conflict in special "peace education" classes.

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

## **Turkey – Over 40 per cent of Syrian refugee children in Turkey missing out on education, despite massive increase in enrolment rates**

19<sup>th</sup> January 2017 - Nearly half a million Syrian refugee children are currently enrolled in schools across Turkey. But despite a more than 50 per cent increase in enrolment since last June, over 40 per cent of children of school-going age – or 380,000 child refugees – are still missing out on an education, UNICEF said today.

[Full article](#) (UNICEF)