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المكتب الدولي لحقوق الطفل

## Newsletter on Children's rights – MENA

October 2017

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

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

### [Letter] Statement of Human Rights Watch for Hearing on “Oversight of the Administration’s Decision to End Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals”

October 2, 2017 – « We write to thank you for holding a hearing addressing the urgent human rights issue of protection for undocumented youth, and to urge your committee to forward to the Senate for approval an inclusive legislative solution to protect immigrants with deep ties to the United States from deportation. »

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

### [Press release] Partners commit to reduce cholera deaths by 90 per cent by 2030

October 3, 2017 – An ambitious new strategy to reduce deaths from cholera by 90 per cent by 2030 will be launched tomorrow by the Global Task Force on Cholera Control (GTFCC), a diverse network of more than 50 UN and international agencies, academic institutions, and NGOs that supports countries affected by the disease. Cholera kills an estimated 95 000 people and affects 2.9 million more every year. Urgent action is needed to protect communities, prevent transmission and control outbreaks.

[Full article](#) (UNICEF Press Center)

### [Press release] UNICEF needs \$6.2 million to meet urgent needs of 20,000 children affected by Hurricane Maria in Dominica

October 3, 2017 – UNICEF said it needs \$6.2 million to meet the urgent needs of children affected by Hurricane Maria in Dominica. The category 5 storm, which hit the Caribbean island on September 19, forced 65,000 people, including 20,000 children, away from their homes. The funds are part of a broader \$28 million appeal by humanitarian agencies to provide immediate needs in one of the poorest islands of the Caribbean.

[Full article](#) (UNICEF Press Center)



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## [Communiqué de presse] Un an après le passage de l'ouragan Matthew, les enfants d'Haïti sont encore vulnérables aux catastrophes naturelles

4 octobre 2017 – Un an après le passage de l'ouragan Matthew de catégorie 4 qui a dévasté le grand Sud d'Haïti et causé des pertes en vies humaines ainsi que des dégâts considérables, les enfants et adolescents de ce pays des Caraïbes sont encore extrêmement vulnérables aux effets des catastrophes naturelles et des événements climatiques extrêmes, avertit l'UNICEF aujourd'hui.

[Article complet](#) (Centre de presse UNICEF)

## [News] Almost 150,000 Rohingya children in urgent need of supplementary food to stave off or treat malnutrition

October 5, 2017 – Save the Children is warning of a malnutrition crisis in the Bangladeshi district of Cox's Bazar, where more than half a million Rohingya have arrived in the past six weeks after fleeing horrific violence and bloodshed over the border in Myanmar.

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

## [News] 700,000 children among millions of people in Puerto Rico facing aftereffects of hurricane Maria

October 7, 2017 – Save the Children has sent additional staff and supplies to address the most urgent needs for children and their families. The organization's staff arrived in the immediate aftermath of the storm and, working with partners and local officials, has already distributed essential supplies for toddlers and young children in seven shelters on the island, with additional distributions scheduled.

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

## [News] For Children in War, Some Good News amidst a Grim Picture

October 10, 2017 – Let's start with the good news. A new United Nations report on children and armed conflict found that more than 5,700 child soldiers were released from armed groups



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in the Central African Republic and the Philippines last year, and for the second year in a row, no new cases of child recruitment by government forces in the Democratic Republic of Congo were reported. Colombia's peace deal, signed in November 2016, includes the demobilization of all child soldiers from the FARC guerrillas.

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

### [News] US Proposal Would Sacrifice Central America's Children

October 10, 2017 – The Trump administration announced on Sunday that it wants Central American children – even those fleeing for their lives – to be turned away at the US-Mexico border or quickly sent back to their home countries. This was one of several conditions the administration cast as prerequisites for any legislative deal to protect the Dreamers, undocumented immigrants brought to the United States as children.

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

### [News] California: New Laws Protect Children, Youth

October 11, 2017 – California Governor Jerry Brown has signed into law three bills that recognize young people's vulnerability to abuse and their capacity to grow and mature, Human Rights Watch said today. The bills, signed on October 11, 2017, will protect children in police custody, limit prison terms for youth and young adults, and offer young people a chance to rebuild their lives.

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

### [News] More than 20,000 girls married illegally every day

October 11, 2017 – More than 20,000 girls are married every day below the minimum age permitted by national law, according to new research from Save the Children and the World Bank marking the International Day of the Girl. In all, about 7.5 million girls are married illegally every year. In addition, close to 100 million girls are not protected against child marriage under the laws of their countries.

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



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## [News] Makeshift schools a rare sanctuary for traumatised Rohingya children

October 11, 2017 – Of the 520,000 Rohingya Muslims who have fled to Bangladesh in recent weeks over 290,000 are children, haunted by the horrors they have witnessed and now crammed into overcrowded refugee camps. With minimal facilities available, aid groups are hurrying to set up schools and safe zones for the children to help deal with the trauma which, so many have experienced. At the entrance to the packed Leda camp a handful of learning centres have been set up opposite a brick factory with a smoke-blackened chimney.

[Full article \(The New Arab\)](#)

## [News] India Supreme Court rules sex with child bride is rape

October 11, 2017 – India's Supreme Court has struck down a legal clause that permits men to have sex with their underage wives. The clause, which was part of India's law on rape, said intercourse between a man and his wife was permissible as long as she was over 15 years of age. The legal age of consent and marriage in India is 18 but marital rape is not considered an offence.

[Full article \(BBC News\)](#)

## [Nouvelle] Le Conseil de sécurité devrait protéger les écoles contre les attaques

12 octobre 2017 – Les membres du Conseil de sécurité des Nations Unies ainsi que les autres États membres de l'ONU devraient redoubler d'efforts pour protéger l'éducation en période de conflit armé, notamment en approuvant la Déclaration sur la sécurité dans les écoles. Le 13 octobre 2017, le Conseil de sécurité tiendra, à l'initiative de l'Italie, de la France, de la Suède et de l'Uruguay, une réunion selon la « formule Arria » sur les attaques contre l'éducation.

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



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## [News] International day for disaster reduction 2017 - School safe school

October 13, 2017 – The Asia-Pacific region is the most disaster-prone in the world, and 35.6 million children are at risk of death and injury every year in this region. Children bear the brunt of recurring and intensifying disasters in the Asia-Pacific region and are at a disproportionately higher risk of death and injury, compared to adults.

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

## [News] Restrictive EU policies are putting refugee children at risk, says new report from Save the Children

October 17, 2017 – In a new report, Save the Children warns that restrictive EU migration policies risk pushing children underground. About 800,000 children applied for asylum in the EU over the last two years. 150,000 of them were unaccompanied, arriving in Europe either completely alone or without a family member. In this new policy report, Keeping Children at the Centre, the NGO Save the Children looks at the risks children face both on the way to and inside Europe, and the restrictive measures that make it difficult for them to receive the protection – and investment – they need.

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

## [News] FBI trafficking sweep rescues 84 children - one just three months old

October 20, 2017 – US authorities have rescued 84 children, one just 3 months old, and arrested 120 people in a nationwide sweep of child sex trafficking that exposed the growing use of technology by traffickers, officials said on Thursday.

[Full article](#) (The Telegraph)



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## [News] Why does the US have so many child brides?

October 23, 2017 - Angel was 13 when her mother forced her to marry and start a family. "I felt like a slave," she says of her childhood. While countries like Zimbabwe, Malawi and El Salvador have recently banned child marriage, it remains legal in the US - and half of states have no set minimum age below which you cannot get married.

[Full article \(BBC News\)](#)

## 2. Conferences, Courses and Events

### Conférence – IVe Conférence mondiale sur l'élimination durable du travail des enfants

Dans le cadre des Objectifs de développement durable (ODD) de l'Agenda 2030, les États membres des Nations Unies, les organisations d'employeurs et de travailleurs, ainsi que les organisations de la société civile sont encouragées à éliminer le travail des enfants d'ici 2025 et le travail forcé, l'esclavage moderne et la traite d'êtres humains d'ici 2030. Dans ce contexte, il a été convenu que le thème de la IVe Conférence mondiale couvrirait à la fois l'élimination durable du travail des enfants et l'élimination du travail forcé, et se pencherait sur la question de la qualité de l'emploi des jeunes.

**Emplacement :** Buenos Aires, Argentine

**Dates :** 14 au 16 novembre 2017

[Pour plus d'information](#) (Organisation internationale du travail)

### Conférence – Seize ans d'évolution dans l'incidence et les caractéristiques des situations évaluées par les services de protection du Québec: les faits saillants de l'ÉIQ-2014

Présentée par Sonia Hélie (CIUSSS du Centre-Sud-de-l'Île-de-Montréal et Université de Montréal), Delphine Collin-Vézina (Université McGill), Nico Trocmé (Université McGill), Daniel Turcotte (Université Laval) et Nadine Girouard (anciennement de l'IUJD).



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

**Dates :** 14 novembre 2017

[Pour plus d'information](#) (Centre jeunesse de Montréal)

## **Forum – Forum annuel 2017 de la Fondation Pierre Elliot Trudeau**

Idées essentielles est le 14e forum annuel de la Fondation Pierre Elliott Trudeau autour des idées et de la recherche sur certains des enjeux les plus pressants de notre époque. Les plénières et ateliers multiplient les échanges entre citoyens engagés, décideurs, intellectuels et praticiens. Le forum présentera des penseurs soutenus par la Fondation et d'autres experts. Les thèmes abordés seront : la réinvention de Montréal, l'imaginaire futuriste autochtone, les jeunes et les conflits au XXIe siècle, le journalisme, les données et la démocratie, et la montée de l'extrémisme au Canada.

**Emplacement :** Hôtel OMNI, Montréal

**Dates :** 15 au 17 novembre 2017

[Pour plus d'information](#) (Fondation Trudeau)

## **Semaine thématique – Grande semaine des tout-petits**

Du 19 au 25 novembre 2017, la Grande semaine des tout-petits (GSTP) battra son plein pour la deuxième année consécutive. Impliquant de nombreux partenaires travaillant auprès des enfants et des familles, la GSTP a pour objectif de mobiliser l'ensemble de la population autour de la petite enfance afin de faire de celle-ci une priorité.

**Emplacement :** Montréal et un peu partout au Québec

**Dates :** 19 au 25 novembre 2017

[Pour plus d'information](#) (Grande semaine des touts-petits)

## **Conférence – Revue de la jurisprudence en droit de l'enfant en regard du droit à l'égalité et à la non-discrimination**

L'honorable Ann-Marie Jones, présidente du Tribunal des droits de la personne, fera une revue des décisions les plus marquantes rendues par le Tribunal dans le cadre de recours impliquant des enfants et leurs parents. Elle y traitera du droit à l'égalité des enfants, notamment en situation de



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handicap, dans le contexte de l'éducation ou autre, ainsi que dans l'accès aux biens et aux services ordinairement offerts au public.

**Emplacement :** ABC-Québec, Montréal

**Date :** 23 novembre 2017

[Pour plus d'information](#) (Association du Barreau canadien)

## Conférence – « Conférence des enfants 2017 »

Les enfants ont des droits, Le savais-tu? Cette année a lieu la Conférence nationale des enfants sur le thème de la formation aux droits de l'enfant au Village d'enfants Pestalozzi à Trogen. Dans le cadre de différents ateliers, ils discuteront des droits des enfants, de leurs droits.

**Emplacement:** Trogen, Suisse

**Date:** 23 au 26 novembre 2017

[Pour plus d'information](#) (Fondation Village d'enfants Pestalozzi)

## Conférence – 8e Conférence internationale sur l'éducation aux droits humains

La conférence internationale sur l'éducation aux droits humains (CIEDH) est le forum des praticiens, décideurs et universitaires pour explorer les solutions aux défis mondiaux par l'éducation.

**Emplacement :** Equitas – Centre international d'éducation aux droits humains, Montréal

**Date:** 30 novembre au 3 décembre 2017

[Pour plus d'information](#) (Equitas)

## Congress – The 2nd International Developmental Pediatrics Association Congress

The Second International Developmental Pediatrics Association Congress will be held in Mumbai from 7th to 10th of December 2017. It is being held in early December to commemorate the International Day of Persons with Disabilities (December 3rd).

**Location:** Mumbai, India

**Date:** 7th of December to 10<sup>th</sup> of December 2017



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[For more information:](#) (The 2<sup>nd</sup> International Developmental Pediatrics Association Congress)

## 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. And, adults and youth from hundreds of additional communities around the globe are in various stages of implementing one of these rapidly expanding affordable youth-led juvenile justice and youth justice diversion programs.

**Location:** Las Vegas, USA

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

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

## 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.

**Emplacement :** Winnipeg, Canada



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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

Conférence animée par Isabelle Archambault (Université de Montréal).

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

Dates : 5 juin 2018

[Pour plus d'information](#) (Centre jeunesse de Montréal)

## 3. Sub-Regional and Country updates

### Afghanistan – Entraves à l'éducation des filles

17 octobre 2017 – Le gouvernement afghan et les donateurs internationaux ont considérablement relâché au cours des dernières années les efforts déployés depuis 2001 en faveur de l'éducation des filles, a affirmé Human Rights Watch dans un rapport publié aujourd'hui. Seize ans après l'intervention militaire dirigée par les États-Unis en Afghanistan afin de chasser les Talibans, on estime que deux tiers des filles afghanes ne vont pas à l'école.

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

### Bangladesh – World's second largest oral cholera vaccination campaign kicks off at Rohingya camps in Bangladesh

October 10, 2017 – A massive cholera immunization campaign started today near Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh, to protect newly arrived Rohingya and host communities from the life-threatening diarrheal disease. 900 000 doses of the vaccine have been mobilized and are being delivered by more than 200 mobile vaccination teams, making it the second largest oral cholera vaccination campaign ever. The first round of the campaign will cover 650,000 people aged one year and older. The second round will commence on 31 October and will target 250,000 children between one and five years with an additional dose of the vaccine for added protection.

[Full article](#) (UNICEF)



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## Irak – Dans les camps irakiens, être enfant malgré tout

13 octobre 2017 - À une heure de Mossoul, les milliers d'enfants du camp de Khazir tentent de se réhabituer à une vie paisible. L'école leur permet d'échapper un temps aux nombreux manques du quotidien.

[Article complet](#) (La Croix)

## Iran – Iran: Afghan Children Recruited to Fight in Syria

October 1, 2017 – Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps (IRGC) has recruited Afghan immigrant children living in Iran to fight in Syria, Human Rights Watch said today. Afghan children as young as 14 have fought in the Fatemiyoun division, an exclusively Afghan armed group supported by Iran that fights alongside government forces in the Syrian conflict. Under international law, recruiting children under the age of 15 to participate actively in hostilities is a war crime.

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

## Iran – Un adolescent de 17 ans risque une exécution imminente

13 octobre 2017 - Les autorités iraniennes doivent de toute urgence empêcher l'exécution d'un adolescent de 17 ans reconnu coupable de meurtre et de viol et commuer sa condamnation à mort en peine d'emprisonnement, a déclaré Amnesty International.

[Article complet](#) (Amnesty International)

## Jordan – A Good Move by Jordan for Syrian Children

October 3, 2017 – The big picture is bleak for Syrian refugee children, but the Jordanian government recently took a step to ensure these children's right to an education. Jordanian regulations require Syrian children to have a "service card," issued by the interior ministry, to enroll in school. These cards may be difficult or impossible for Syrian families to obtain, if, for instance, they moved from refugee camps to towns or cities without official permission. Last week, Jordan's prime minister, Hani Mulki, announced that public schools would not turn away any child seeking an education, with or without a service card. Jordan's education



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minister waived the requirement last year, but it was a temporary measure. Mulki's decision locked it in as official Jordanian policy.

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

### **Kuwait – Envoy lauds Kuwait's initiative to host conference on Palestinian children**

October 17, 2017 – Palestinian Ambassador to Kuwait Rami Tahboub has praised Kuwait's initiative to host the first conference on the sufferings of the Palestinian children.

[Full article](#) (Kuwait News Agency)

### **Pakistan – Pakistan Should End Child Marriage**

October 12, 2017 - Pakistan's Senate chose to mark the United Nations International Day of the Girl Child this week in an unusual way: by rejecting a bill that would have raised the minimum age for girls to marry from 16 to 18. The grounds for rejection? Apparently, the proposed amendment was "contrary to religious injunctions," said the Senate Standing Committee on Interior.

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

### **Syria – Violence in al-Mayadin district, Deir ez-Zor, reportedly destroys cold room and vaccines**

October 12, 2017 – UNICEF has received reports that ongoing violence in Deir ez-Zor in eastern Syria has destroyed a UNICEF-supported vaccine cold room in al-Mayadin district, with at least 140,000 doses of vaccines lost, including some planned for use in tackling vaccine-preventable childhood diseases in the area. UNICEF is currently verifying this alarming report.

[Full article](#) (UNICEF)



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## **United Arab Emirates – SBFO brings experts to map out media strategy for childhood issues**

October 18, 2017 - SBFO brings journalists and child rights experts to map out media strategy for childhood issues. A workshop on promoting media protection for children got underway, on Tuesday, to map out a framework for an ethical strategy for Arab media professionals to adopt when handling child rights issues.

[Full article \(Emirates 24/7\)](#)

## **United Arab Emirates – Awareness about children’s exploitation increasing**

October 26, 2017 – The Family Prosecution Department is sparing no effort in spreading awareness about children’s rights in order to protect them from exploitation in homes, schools and the society at large. Cases involving children rose to nine per cent of the total cases registered in 2016 from five per cent in 2015, revealing a healthy sign of an informed society that is coming forward to seek redressal.

[Full article \(Gulf News\)](#)

## **Yémen – Yémen : La coalition arabe pour la première fois sur une liste noire de l’ONU**

6 octobre 2017 – C'est la première fois que la coalition pour restaurer la légitimité au Yémen – sous la direction de l'Arabie saoudite, créée en 2015 – figure sur la liste noire des Nations unies (ONU), rendue publique jeudi 5 octobre. Elle se trouve sur celle des pays et des entités ayant commis en 2016 des meurtres ou des mutilations d'enfants. Riyad a rejeté vendredi « les informations et chiffres erronés et trompeurs contenus dans le rapport ».

[Article complet \(Le Monde\)](#)

## **Yemen – 2 Paths for Yemen’s War-Scarred Children: Combat, or Marriage**

October 9, 2017 – The girl did not know whether it was night or day when she plotted her escape from a house in Yemen. Her husband had locked the girl in a windowless room. “He was



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mean to me because I didn't want to touch him," she said. He was 35. She was 14. But the girl, Mohsina, was not only a victim of child marriage. She was a casualty of a war that has plunged her country into a humanitarian catastrophe. For Mohsina's family, marrying off their underage daughter earned a \$1,300 dowry — enough to feed them for a year.

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

### **Yemen – Yemen endorses Safe Schools Declaration in advance of UN Security Council Debate on Children and Armed Conflict**

October 27, 2017 - Yemen has become the 70th country to endorse the Safe Schools Declaration and commit to take concrete measures to enhance protection for schools, universities, students, teachers, and academics during armed conflict, said the Global Coalition to Protect Education from Attack (GCPEA) today. Thousands of schools have been damaged or destroyed by all parties to the conflict since the outbreak of fighting in Yemen in 2011.

[Full article](#) (Global Coalition to Protect Education from Attack)

### **Yemen – Houthi minister tells Yemen school kids to drop pens and pick up rifles**

October 21, 2017 – A Houthi youth minister has called for a suspension of classes in rebel-held territories, with children and ministers sent off to the front lines to fight against government troops. Hassan Zaid, minister of youth and sports affairs, said the rebel alliance could end the war in Yemen if schoolchildren and their teachers are sent to reinforce Houthi fighters.

[Full article](#) (The New Arab)