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LOS DERECHOS DEL NIÑO

المكتب الدولي لحقوق الطفل

Newsletter on Children's rights – MENA

November – December 2017

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

Bureau international des droits des enfants/International Bureau for Children's Rights

805 Villeray Street, Montreal (Québec) H2R 1J4

Tel. : +1 514 932 7656

Fax : +1 514 932 9453

Website: www.ibcr.org

E-mail: info@ibcr.org

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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.

[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.

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



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[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] 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] Tobacco Companies Commit to Protect Child Workers Worldwide

November 15, 2017 – 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. 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 \(Human Rights Watch\)](#)



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[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.

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



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[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 \(The tablet\)](#)



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[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. And, adults and youth from hundreds of additional communities around the globe are in various stages of



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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)

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)



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

La 18^e 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, 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)



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3. Sub regional and Country Updates – MENA

Afghanistan – 9,500 children dying from diarrhoea each year in Afghanistan

November 2, 2017 – Although the number of children under five years dying from diarrhoea each year in Afghanistan has dropped below 10,000 for the first time, the disease still claims the lives of 26 children each day across the country, UNICEF said today. “Deaths from diarrhoea are particularly tragic because in most cases, they can be easily avoided,” said Adele Khodr, UNICEF Afghanistan Representative. “Using a toilet and washing your hands is literally a matter of life or death.”

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

Egypt – “Men can have sex with daughters born out of wedlock,” says Egyptian cleric

November 4, 2017 – According to this cleric's logic, there is an interpretation of al-Shafi'i's work saying if a man impregnates a woman who is not his wife, the child is not technically his. Anger has spurred after an Egyptian cleric drew light to an interpretation of the work of an Islamic jurist saying that men can have sex with their "illegitimate" daughters.

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

Iraq – A proposed law in Iraq could legalise marriage for children as young as nine

November 15, 2017 – Iraq has proposed an amendment to personal status law which could lower the marriage age to nine, prompting an outcry by campaigners regarding it a flagrant violation of women's rights. Conservative Iraqi lawmakers are proposing to amend legislation which could see the marital age reduced from 18 to nine years old, prompting outcry from rights campaigners.

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



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Iraq – Joint Statement by the Special Representatives of the Secretary General on Sexual Violence in Conflict and for Children and Armed Conflict Regarding Proposed Amendments to the Iraqi Personal Status Law

December 4, 2017 – The Special Representatives of the United Nations Secretary-General (SRSG) on Sexual Violence in Conflict (SVC), Pramila Patten, and for Children and Armed Conflict, Virginia Gamba urged Iraq to reconsider the draft amendments to the Personal Status Law that alter fundamentally the legal provisions governing marriage. It is a matter of concern that these draft amendments are silent on the minimum age of consent to marriage and do not apply to all components of Iraqi society.

[Full article](#) (ReliefWeb)

Lebanon – More than 3,000 Syrian refugee children in Lebanon face eviction from homes ahead of winter

November 8, 2017 – The eviction of some 6,000 Syrian refugees, including an estimated 3,200 children, living on the outskirts of Beirut must be stopped immediately, Save the Children said today. In recent weeks, the refugees, who have been living in rented private accommodation in al-Hadath neighbourhood, were given eviction notices by the local authorities and told they must leave their home in just 10 days, allegedly for violating Lebanon's Labour Law.

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

Liban – Un réfugié syrien de 16 ans demande au monde de lui «donner une chance»

4 décembre 2017 – Un adolescent syrien ayant fui la guerre a reçu lundi le Prix international de la Paix des Enfants, lançant à cette occasion un plaidoyer pour que le monde voie ses concitoyens réfugiés comme des «gens normaux». Avec l'aide de sa famille, l'énergique jeune homme a construit une école pour 200 enfants réfugiés dans un camp au Liban et y a enseigné l'anglais, les mathématiques et sa passion, la photographie.

[Article complet](#) (La Presse)



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Pakistan – Govt censured for not ensuring rights of children

December 9, 2017 – Rights activists lamented on Friday the government's failure to utilise the budget allocated for ensuring rights of children. Sharing the official data, they bemoaned the fact that child labour, domestic slavery, corporal punishment and sexual abuse of children were continuing despite the allocation of significant amount in the budget to deal with these wrongs.

[Full article \(The Express Tribune\)](#)

Saudi Arabia – Submission to the Committee on the Rights of the Child on Saudi Arabia's Compliance with the Optional Protocol on the Involvement of Children in Armed Conflict

November 7, 2016 – « We write in advance of the pre-sessional working group for the 79th session of the Committee on the Rights of the Child to share research by Human Rights Watch that we hope the Committee will use in its review of Saudi Arabia's compliance with the Optional Protocol on the Involvement of Children in Armed Conflict. »

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

Saudi Arabia – Saudi cleric sparks controversy after saying giving children foreign names is 'unacceptable'

November 15, 2017 – Saudi cleric Abdullah Al Maneh came under fire after saying that giving children foreign "un-Islamic" names is unacceptable in Islam. Earlier this week, Abdullah Al Maneh was asked on television on the Islamic position of giving children foreign names.

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

Syrie – Une région de Syrie face à la pire crise de malnutrition infantile depuis 2011

29 novembre 2017 – Les enfants de la Ghouta orientale, région rebelle assiégée en périphérie de Damas, subissent actuellement la pire crise de malnutrition en Syrie depuis le début de la guerre en 2011, a rapporté mercredi l'Unicef.



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Article complet (Libération)

Syrie – Crise syrienne : Tortures sexuelles et viols généralisés à l'égard des hommes et jeunes garçons

6 décembre 2017 - Selon une étude du HCR, le viol, la torture et l'exploitation sexuelle à l'égard des hommes et des jeunes garçons en Syrie et dans d'autres pays pourraient être nettement plus répandus qu'on ne l'estimait auparavant.

Article complet (UNHCR)

Turkey – The 'mufti marriage law' and child brides in Turkey

November 22, 2017 – Changes to Turkey's marriage laws may only make underage marriage rates - linked to rising illiteracy rates - rise even higher, writes Gaja Pellegrini-Bettoli. An 18-year-old girl identified as N.G. submitted a 30-page complaint to a court in the south-western city of Antalya in October, detailing years of sexual abuse by her family. The girl, who was married at 15, claimed she was later forced into prostitution.

Full article (The New Arab)

Yemen – Hunger & disease could kill at least 50,000 children this year, more if the aid blockade continues

November 15, 2017 – Extreme hunger and disease are killing an estimated 130 children in Yemen every day. A continuing blockade by the Saudi Arabia-led coalition on the country's northern ports of entry is likely to increase the death toll further, past the projected 50,000 children expected to die this year.

Full article (Save the Children)



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Yemen – UN Leaders appeal for immediate lifting of humanitarian blockade in Yemen – Millions of lives at imminent risk

November 16, 2017 – “While the Saudi-led military coalition has partially lifted the recent blockade of Yemen, closure of much of the country’s air, sea and land ports is making an already catastrophic situation far worse. The space and access we need to deliver humanitarian assistance is being choked off, threatening the lives of millions of vulnerable children and families.

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

Yemen – UNICEF plane landed in Sana'a airport today with lifesaving vaccines for children in Yemen

November 25, 2017 – A UNICEF-chartered aircraft carrying lifesaving vaccines has landed in Sana'a airport earlier today. The aircraft carried 1.9 million doses of vaccines. The vaccines will reach 600,000 children in a nation-wide vaccination campaign all over Yemen.

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