



BUREAU  
INTERNATIONAL  
DES DROITS DES ENFANTS

INTERNATIONAL  
BUREAU  
FOR CHILDREN'S RIGHTS

OFICINA  
INTERNACIONAL DE  
LOS DERECHOS DEL NIÑO

المكتب الدولي لحقوق الطفل

# Newsletter on Children's rights – MENA

*December 2019*

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## **Afghanistan – Afghan parliament ratifies Child Protection Act**

9<sup>th</sup> December 2019 - The parliament in Afghanistan on Monday approved the much-delayed Child Protection Act. The crucial vote went through the lower house, Wolesi Jirga, thanks to a majority vote despite staunch opposition from many lawmakers. In line with the new act, boys and girls under the age of 18 are considered children, and marrying someone below this age would be considered crime in the conservative country.

Anadolu Agency – [Full article](#)

## **Lebanon – Pressure on Lebanon's schools as tough times force children into state system**

18<sup>th</sup> December 2019 – BEIRUT - Lebanon's economic crisis is forcing families to pull tens of thousands of children out of the private schools that educate most pupils in the country, and into a long-neglected state education system that is already struggling to cope.

Reuters – [Full article](#)

## **Maroc – Haro sur la mendicité des enfants au Maroc !**

4 décembre 2019 - Le coup d'envoi a été donné mercredi à Rabat au Plan d'action national pour la lutte contre l'exploitation des enfants à des fins de mendicité, qui repose sur le renforcement du système de protection de l'enfant de ce type d'exploitation en se basant sur le travail d'intervention d'équipes de terrain pluridisciplinaires dans différentes régions au niveau de la protection judiciaire, des soins de santé, de l'assistance psychologique et sociale, de l'éducation et la formation, ainsi que du suivi et de l'évaluation.

La Tribune – [Article complet](#)

## **Maroc – Mariage des enfants: le Maroc persiste, et sa législation le permet**

9 décembre 2019 – En collaboration avec l'Ambassade de Belgique, les agences du système des Nations Unies au Maroc, UNFPA, UNICEF et ONU Femmes ont saisi l'occasion de la campagne internationale des 16 jours d'activisme contre les violences faites aux femmes et aux filles pour organiser ce lundi à Rabat une rencontre débat autour du mariage des enfants au Maroc. Une remise en lumière de ce phénomène dans l'objectif souhaité de renforcer l'engagement pour y mettre fin.

Hespress – [Article complet](#)

## **Maroc – L'insoutenable calvaire des enfants nés hors mariage**

19 décembre 2019 – La distinction entre enfants légitimes et naturels demeure encore profondément ancrée dans les mentalités. Que ce soit au sein de la famille, de l'administration ou à l'école, les comportements négatifs et les tracasseries continuent de rendre la vie difficile à bon nombre d'enfants dont le seul tort est d'être nés hors du schéma familial traditionnel qui veut que des parents se marient avant l'arrivée de leurs bébés.

Pages Afrik – [Article complet](#)

## **Qatar - Qatar should ease school fees for migrant children, UN expert says**

16<sup>th</sup> December 2019 - DOHA, Qatar — The UN expert on the right to education warned on Monday that excessive fees charged to the children of migrant workers in Qatar meant that thousands were unable to study

The Times of Israel – [Full article](#)

## **Saudi Arabia - Saudi Arabia issues de facto ban on child marriages with court order**

26<sup>th</sup> December 2019 - A Saudi Arabian justice minister has instructed officials throughout the kingdom to refrain from confirming any marriage contracts that include a person under the age of 18. The directive comes after the Shura Council, Saudi Arabia's formal advisory body, passed an amendment to the country's Child Protection Law earlier this year that instituted a marriage ban for children under 15 years old.

Washington Examiner – [Full article](#)

## **Tunisia - Tunisia launches a state-sponsored sex-education program, a rarity in the Arab world**

19<sup>th</sup> December 2019 - Tunisia will begin providing a sex education program for its elementary and middle school students, making it the only Arab nation to currently do so, according to health officials. Starting this month, children as young as 5 will begin learning about their bodies in a biological and religious-based way in hopes of protecting them from sexual harassment, catcalling, rape and molestation.

Washington Post – [Full article](#)

## **United Arab Emirates - How does the UAE protect children? The laws, rights and student hotline, everything to keep your child safe**

23<sup>rd</sup> December 2019 - The UAE is a very safe country, especially for children. It has very strong laws when it comes to child safety and child abuse.

Gulf News – [Full article](#)

## **Yemen - War-ravaged Yemeni children will suffer from hunger for 20 years, new report says**

2<sup>nd</sup> December 2019 - Even if the five-year war in Yemen were to end today, it would take two decades for the impoverished country's children to reach the lesser level of malnutrition they suffered before the conflict, according to a new report to be released on Tuesday by a charity organisation.

The Independent – [Full article](#)