



# Newsletter on Children's rights – Global

August 2020

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## **Belarus – UNICEF statement on the situation of children in Belarus**

14<sup>th</sup> August – “UNICEF stands ready to support all actions that protect and promote the rights and well-being of Belarus’ children. “The release of numerous individuals, including minors, from detention is an important first step. Serious concerns remain over reports of excessive force used by police against protestors, in many cases children. The lack of information on the numbers of children detained and released is also worrisome.

Unicef – [Full article](#)

## **Global – La convention de l'OIT sur le travail des enfants est universellement ratifiée**

4 août – Les 187 États Membres de l'Organisation internationale du Travail (OIT) ont tous ratifié la Convention (n° 182) de l'OIT sur les pires formes de travail des enfants, 1999. Pour la



première fois dans l'histoire de l'OIT, une convention internationale du travail est ratifiée par tous les États Membres. La Convention (no 182) de l'OIT sur les pires formes de travail des enfants, 1999 obtient la ratification universelle après la ratification par le Royaume des Tonga.

OIT – [Article complet](#)

## **Global – Le retour à l'école en toute sécurité, « une priorité absolue », dit l'ONU**

4 août - Le secrétaire général de l'ONU, Antonio Guterres, a fait part mardi de son inquiétude face à la fermeture des écoles dans le monde en raison du coronavirus, « une catastrophe qui touche toute une génération » (...) À la mi-juillet, les écoles étaient fermées dans quelque 160 pays, affectant plus d'un milliard d'élèves, tandis qu'au moins 40 millions d'enfants ont manqué l'école maternelle, déclare Antonio Guterres dans sa note de synthèse sur l'éducation à l'époque du COVID-19 et au-delà.

Radio-Canada – [Article complet](#)

## **Global – The climate crisis: Our children warned us, but we did not listen**

7<sup>th</sup> August – When children start suing governments for inaction on climate change, as they have in South Korea, Pakistan, India and several other countries, it is time to sit up and take notice. The climate crisis is already a menace to countries battered by extreme weather events. But with much worse to come for future generations, it is also a child rights crisis. The UN Convention on the Rights of the Child enshrines children's rights to survival. It explicitly mentions "the dangers and risks of environmental pollution" including global heating.

Al Jazeera - [Full article](#)

## **Global – 275-Strong world leaders' group warns of tragic 'COVID generation' - millions of children hit as education faces \$150 billion of cuts**

18<sup>th</sup> August – A group of 275 former world leaders, economists and educationalists have called on G20 nations and other countries to take action to prevent the global health crisis creating a 'COVID generation' - tens of millions of children with no hope of an education. The leaders - including many presidents and prime ministers - say urgent measures are now required and as country lockdowns come to an end, an immediate priority is the fate of 30 million children who, according to a UNESCO report, may never return to school.



Save the Children - [Full article](#)

## **Global – COVID-19: Back to school plans focus on outcomes, not childhood well-being, researcher suggests**

28<sup>th</sup> August – As September approaches and schools prepare to reopen, there are concerns for children, including the risk they might spread COVID-19, their mental health, abuse in the home and access to technology. These concerns largely focus on children's psycho-social development, while protecting children and families from COVID-19 has taken a back seat. Consequently, children have been excluded from conversations as experts make their decisions for them.

New Market Today - [Full article](#)

## **Global – 'Education emergency' as third of world's children lack remote learning**

27<sup>th</sup> August – One in three schoolchildren across the world have been unable to access remote learning during coronavirus school closures, the U.N. children's agency said on Thursday, warning of a "global education emergency". Nearly 1.5 billion children were affected by school closures as countries locked down to prevent the disease from spreading, UNICEF said in a report. Yet at least one in three students have had no way of continuing their education at home.

Reuters - [Full article](#)

## **Global – The significance of UN convention on child rights**

27<sup>th</sup> August - There have been impressive gains for the world's children since the Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) was adopted 30 years ago. Today more children are living longer, better and healthier lives. However, the odds continue to be stacked against the poorest and most vulnerable who are yet to feel the impact of the CRC. Poverty, discrimination and marginalization continue to leave millions of the most disadvantaged children at risk. Children are some of the most vulnerable members of society and often face the greatest hurdles accessing the rights to which they are entitled.

Herald – [Full article](#)



## **India – India Faces Lost Generation as Virus Pushes Children to Work**

9<sup>th</sup> August - The coronavirus pandemic is forcing India's children out of school and into farms and factories to work, worsening a child-labor problem that was already one of the most dire in the world. (...) It's difficult to quantify the number of children affected since the pandemic erupted, but civil society groups are rescuing more of them from forced labor and warn that many others are being compelled to work in cities because of the migrant labor shortage there.

Bloomberg – [Full article](#)

## **United Kingdom – Ban on prison visits is a breach of Children's Rights, lawyers argue**

23<sup>rd</sup> August – Lawyers representing three families say a lack of meaningful contact with parents who are in jail could have a damaging long-term impact. Children of prisoners are having their human rights breached by the ban on jail visits and lack of video calls, lawyers have argued in a letter threatening legal action. The government suspended prison visitations on March 24 as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic. Families were forced to rely on phone calls to make contact with loved ones in prison.

Huffpost – [Full article](#)

## **United Kingdom – Protecting children's rights in Scotland**

4<sup>th</sup> August - The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child ("UNCRC") is a treaty which sets out a number of rights which signatory states have agreed all children and young people are entitled to. The United Kingdom is a signatory state to the UNCRC. The Scottish Government has committed to incorporating the UNCRC into Scots Law. It has set up a Working Group to consider how best to do this. The Working Group recently published a summary of views expressed by members.

Lexology – [Full article](#)