

# UNICEF Child Protection Issues in the Media

## September 2011

### **CHILD PROTECTION ISSUES IN THE NEWS**

Here follows from UNICEF's media section a compilation of clips from major media outlets covering international child protection issues over the previous month. These stories do not necessarily represent UNICEF's views on the topic; rather they present a variety of perspectives (including those that are controversial, sensitive and highly debated) on current issues in child protection from across the globe.

#### **BBC: What Is It Like to Be a Child Bride?**

Nel Hedayat goes on a compelling and revealing journey to find out what life is really like for a child bride. Some 10 million girls a year are married off before the age of 18 across the world, according to a UNICEF report released this year.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/magazine-15082550>

To view the documentary, go to: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b015psyz>

#### **All Africa: Zimbabwe: Child Rape - a Serious Social Disorder**

Statistics reveal that the incidence of child sexual abuse has soared over the last 10 years and is traumatising thousands of children - mostly young girls. UNICEF adds that children exposed to violence, abuse and exploitation have the right to seek recourse through social welfare, health and legal systems. 'However, due to the challenges facing the Government service delivery mechanisms such as retention of qualified staff, shortage of funding, deteriorating infrastructure - emerging evidence indicates that many children cannot access the services they need.'

<http://allafrica.com/stories/201109290409.html>

#### **Eurasianet: Uzbekistan: UNICEF Looking for Signs of Forced Child Labour**

This year, UNICEF is sending observers to observe the cotton harvest. UNICEF is stressing, however, that the UN agency's efforts cannot serve as a substitute for a substantive and independent monitoring survey done under the auspices of the ILO.

<http://www.eurasianet.org/node/64231>

#### **UN: Children with Disabilities in Former Soviet Countries Face Discrimination**

Some 1.1 million children with disabilities in Central and Eastern Europe and the countries of the former Soviet Union are hidden away at home or in institutions, the United Nations reported today. As reported by UNICEF at the start of a three-day conference being held in Moscow on the issue (which it has organized with support from the city government), these children are likely to be out of school and among those most vulnerable to neglect, abuse and exploitation.

<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=39827&Cr=disabilities&Cr1>

#### **UN: Number of States Joining UN-Backed Initiative to End Use of Child Soldiers Hits 100**

Five more countries have joined a United Nations-backed list of States committed to release hundreds of thousands of child soldiers and others recruited by armed groups worldwide, end the practice and reintegrate them into society. This brings the total number to 100 States. During the course of 2010 alone, UNICEF and partners contributed to the release and reintegration of some 10,000 children associated with armed forces or groups.

<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=39823&Cr=child+soldiers&Cr1>

#### **Nigerian Tribune: Of 'Baby Farms' and Child Trafficking**

The rescue by Nigerian Police of 32 pregnant girls allegedly held by a human trafficking ring in South-Eastern Nigeria has brought global attention to the practice of 'baby farms'. According to the report, the girls who were between the ages of 15 and 17 years old were locked up and used to produce babies. UNICEF estimates that at least 10 children are sold daily across Nigeria.

<http://tribune.com.ng/index.php/letters/28756-of-baby-farms-and-child-trafficking>

#### **Times of India: Juvenile Cases Pile up in Bihar**

More than 14,000 juvenile cases are pending before the 38 Juvenile Justice Boards in districts across the Indian state of Bihar. According to the report, this is mainly because of the lack of effective implementation of the Juvenile Justice Act. A training workshop for the principal magistrates under the Juvenile Justice System is being organized by Bihar Judicial Academy in collaboration with state social welfare department and UNICEF.

[http://articles.timesofindia.indiatimes.com/2011-09-25/patna/30200454\\_1\\_remand-homes-juvenile-justice-boards-principal-magistrates](http://articles.timesofindia.indiatimes.com/2011-09-25/patna/30200454_1_remand-homes-juvenile-justice-boards-principal-magistrates)

### **Jamaica Information Service: Birth Registration Assists National Planning Process**

The Registrar General's Department (RGD) is appealing to parents to get their children registered so that they can benefit from vital services and also provide data to assist the national planning process. As part of efforts, a series of island wide birth registration fairs got underway in Kingston on September 15 and will end on October 10. Through these efforts, the RGD is seeking to provide 6,000 children under five years old, with a birth certificate. The national initiative is being sponsored by UNICEF, which has set a target of 2015, for all children across the globe, within the age cohort, to be registered and have a birth certificate.

<http://www.jis.gov.jm/news/106-leads/28837>

### **All Africa: Gambia: Stakeholders Discuss UNFPA/UNICEF Programme on FGM/C**

Stakeholders from a number of West African countries and the United States of America began a three-day training on monitoring and evaluation of the UNFPA-UNICEF Joint Programme on FGM/C. The purpose of the training is to strengthen the monitoring and evaluation of the FGM/C Joint Programme as well as develop the capacity and accountability of the countries in West Africa.

<http://allafrica.com/stories/201109220952.html>

### **The Sacramento Bee: Illinois Communities Engage at Human Trafficking Forum**

The global human rights organization, International Justice Mission, hosted a Human Trafficking Forum at Chicago's Park Community Church, where more than 700 community members gathered to discuss the urgency of the reauthorization of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act.

<http://www.sacbee.com/2011/09/20/3924302/illinois-communities-engage-at.html#ixzz1YWcDQgrt>

### **Straits Times: Cambodian Government Moves to Limit Orphanage Boom**

The Cambodian government on Thursday introduced guidelines aiming to better protect orphans and vulnerable children after childcare experts voiced alarm over an unregulated boom in orphanages.

[http://www.straitstimes.com/BreakingNews/SEAsia/Story/STIStory\\_710801.html](http://www.straitstimes.com/BreakingNews/SEAsia/Story/STIStory_710801.html)

### **Northern Voices Online: Child Trafficking of Tribal Children A Big Concern**

India's Minister of States for Women and Child Development Smt. Krishna Tirath today stated in Rajya Sabha (the upper house of India's Parliament) that the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights held a series of meetings with the State Governments of Gujarat and Rajasthan to draw up an Action Plan to stop children's migration for child labour and to periodically review progress.

<http://nvonews.com/2011/09/08/child-trafficking-of-tribal-children-a-big-concern/>

### **Guardian: Kenya Acts Against the Unkindest Cut**

Kenya has become the latest African country to ban female genital mutilation/cutting (FGM/C), with the passing of a law making it illegal to practice or procure it or take somebody abroad for cutting. The law even prohibits derogatory remarks about women who have not undergone FGM/C. Offenders may be jailed or fined or both.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/society/sarah-boseley-global-health/2011/sep/08/women-africa>

### **San Francisco Chronicle: Child Rescue Centre Establishes New Partnership to Care for Victims of Child Trafficking in Sierra Leone**

The Child Rescue Centre, a program of Helping Children Worldwide, has established a partnership with Faith Alliance Against Slavery and Trafficking (FAAST), a program of World Hope International to combat child trafficking and forced child labour in Sierra Leone, West Africa. FAAST works closely with the Sierra Leone Ministry of Social Welfare and Gender Affairs and the Child Rescue Centre works in partnership with the Sierra Leone Conference of the United Methodist Church. Together these organizations will have a larger impact on child trafficking. In the entire country, no long-term shelter exists for child survivors of forced labour or trafficking.

<http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/g/a/2011/09/07/prweb8744327.DTL>

