CHILD PROTECTION ISSUES IN THE MEDIA
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.

Al Jazeera: Libyan kids maimed by war remnants
UNICEF workshops in Libya help to educate about the dangers of "explosive remnants of war" that remain deadly.
http://english.aljazeera.net/indepth/features/2011/06/20116674436348565.html

BBC Radio: Tutu's 'Battle to End Child Marriage'
The Nobel Prize winner Archbishop Desmond Tutu has announced his intention to start an alliance against child marriage, after spending time in Ethiopia where many young girls leave school to get married.
http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/today/9506000/9506366.stm

NYT: Nicholas Kristof Op-Ed – Raiding a Brothel in India
Unicef has estimated that worldwide 1.8 million children enter the sex trade each year. Too many are in the United States, which should prosecute pimps much more aggressively, but the worst abuses take place in countries like Pakistan, India, Bangladesh, Nepal and Cambodia.
http://www.nytimes.com/2011/05/26/opinion/26kristof.html?_r=1

NYT: As Wealth and Literacy Rise in India, Report Says, So Do Sex-Selective Abortions
NEW DELHI — India's increasing wealth and improving literacy are apparently contributing to a national crisis of "missing girls," with the number of sex-selective abortions up sharply among more affluent, educated families during the past two decades, according to a new study. The study, being published in the British medical journal The Lancet, is the latest evidence of India's worsening imbalance in the ratio of boys to girls. The 2011 Indian census found 914 girls for every 1,000 boys among children 6 six or younger, the lowest ratio of girls since the country gained independence in 1947. The new study estimated that 4 million to 12 million selective abortions of girls have occurred in India in the past three decades.

The Messenger: Social workers – key to success of the Child Care system reform
"Social workers have been crucial in securing a success of the child care reform which have so far resulted in reduction of a number of children living in institutions from 5000 to 1220 over the last five years", said Roeland Monasch, UNICEF Representative in Georgia.

WSJ Book Review: "They Fight Like Soldiers, They Die Like Children"
Roméo Dallaire, the retired Canadian army general, is perhaps best known as one of the rare Western heroes of the Rwandan genocide: His insistent warnings about the scope and severity of that unfolding horror went unheeded. He is also a tireless campaigner against human-rights abuses in Africa, not least the use of child soldiers in the many wars there.
http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748704816604576335273844035838.html?mod=googlenews_wsj

Foreign Policy: A Groom's Tale
Child marriage in Afghanistan is pandemic. "In the villages people believe very strongly that the earlier you marry the better: This way your children are old enough to help you with work while you are still young," says Farid Mutaqi, a human rights worker in Mazar-e-Sharif. The U.N. agency that monitors the rights of children worldwide, UNICEF, reports that 57 percent of marriages in Afghanistan involve girls below the legal age limit. Afghan and international nonprofits consider the problem of child brides to be one of the foremost threats to women's rights here.
http://www.foreignpolicy.com/articles/2011/05/19/a_grooms_tale

NYT: Congo Study Sets Estimate for Rapes Much Higher
A new study in The American Journal of Public Health, expected to be published Thursday online, estimates that nearly two million women have been raped in the Democratic Republic of Congo, with women victimized at a rate of nearly one every minute. "There are two big surprises in the study," said Anthony Gambino, mission director for Congo of the United States Agency for International Development in 2001-4. "First, the magnitude of the problem — rates of rape that are much higher than seen elsewhere. And, second, that these alarming, shockingly high rape statistics are found in western Congo as well as northern and eastern Congo."
http://www.nytimes.com/2011/05/12/world/africa/12congo.html

The Atlantic: Refugees Stuck in Limbo at Desolate Egypt-Libya Border
"Play with your children to help them cope with stress," reads a UNICEF poster plastered against one wall of the congested hall. Despite signs forbidding cooking, women make tea on small stoves throughout the building.
Philippine Information Agency: UNICEF cites Zambo’s gains in anti-human trafficking drive
ZAMBOANGA CITY, Philippines May 16 (PIA) -- United Nations Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF) country representative Vanessa Tobin has considered as magnificent breakthroughs Zamboanga City's gains in its advocacy against human trafficking.
http://www.pia.gov.ph/?m=1&t=1&id=32751

Times of India: Age no bar in Indian marriages
Dr. Tania Goldner, chief of the UNICEF office in Madhya Pradesh, says, "Child marriage is violation of child rights. Early marriage denies the child of the basic rights to health, nutrition, education, freedom from violence, abuse and exploitation and deprives the child of his or her childhood."

WOMENSENEWS: Abuse Posters Help Indian Schoolgirls Speak Up
CHENNAI, TAMIL NADU, India (WOMENSENEWS)—The sketches are simply done and the messages are written in Tamil in some schools; English in others.
"No one can touch me and ask me to keep it a secret."
"If someone touches me and asks me to keep it a secret I must tell a grown up."
"My body belongs to me."
These posters, however, are the first time government schools have opened their doors to permanent wall hangings about child sexual abuse that are meant for the children to see and talk about. The poster campaign is a joint effort of the state government, an advocacy group called Tulir and UNICEF.

Washington Post blog: Setting the world on fire
Perhaps most tragic, young children, especially girls, are married far too often. A UNICEF estimate puts the number of women aged 20–24 years who were married or in union before the age of 18 at 64 million. Their parents may mean well, hoping to protect their daughters from violence, and to secure their future. But the evidence that underage marriage is devastating for girls, their children and their families is growing and compelling.

Times of India: Clinics to offer teens sex-related advice
NEW DELHI: Union health ministry has decided to address the contentious issue of sexual health of adolescents head on. With one in every five Indians is in the age bracket of 10-19 years, the Union health ministry has conceived an "Adolescent Reproductive and Sexual Health (ARSH)" programme, where unique "health clinics" will dish out "adolescent-friendly services."

Indo-Asian News Service: Need for effective enforcement of child rights: Experts
Gwalior (Madhya Pradesh), India, April 30 (IANS) There are several laws to protect the rights of children in India but what is required is effective enforcement of these rights, prominent members of judiciary said here Saturday.
"There are laws for children in India but the challenge is to enforce them. Child is the supreme asset of the nation," Justice Rakesh Saxena of Madhya Pradesh High Court in Jabalpur told the symposium on "Child Rights and Law". Several district judges, civil society organisations and state government departments are participating in the two-day symposium organised by Human Rights Law Network in partnership with Unicef office for Madhya Pradesh and the state department for women and child development.

Manila Bulletin: UN intensifies effort to reintegrate children into their communities
MANILA, Philippines -- Children have rights and privileges guaranteed by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Every support must be extended to ensure their growth in an environment in which their rights and welfare are respected. Under the agreement, UNICEF provided funds for the implementation of interventions that would advance children's welfare in time of peace and spare them from any consequences in armed conflict.

News One: 88 Rajasthan Panchayats vow to end child labour
Rajasthan's principal secretary of department of labour, Manohar Kant, and Rajasthan state chief of UNICEF Samuel Mawunganidze, joined Dungarpur District Collector Puran Chandra Kishan in launching a community leadership driven campaign against child labour.