

Family Strengthening & Alternative Care

A GLOBAL MONTHLY
NEWS WRAP-UP & RESOURCES

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This comprehensive newsletter is designed to keep you informed about the latest developments in the areas of family strengthening and alternative care. In this issue, we have meticulously segmented the content to ensure easy navigation. We cover General Alternative Care News, categorized by India, Asia, and international regions. Additionally, we include New Resources in the Alternative Care Space, encompassing publications, studies, policy briefs, and toolkits. You'll also find inspiring narratives under Young Voices in the Media, as well as Opportunities and Events featuring calls for papers, conferences, and more. We hope you find this information useful in your day-to-day work on research, writing, and practice in child and youth care.

EXCITING CONTRIBUTIONS ALERT!



Got groundbreaking insights, resources, best practices, or recent developments in the latest industry news?

Reach out to us and share your knowledge with the world of practitioners. Your contributions could be featured in the next issue of our monthly news wrap-up on alternative care and family strengthening.



GENERAL ALTERNATIVE CARE NEWS

INDIA

- [Strengthening Support for Care Leavers: Udayan Care Hosts 3rd Round Table Conference](#)
Udayan Care, in collaboration with the District Child Protection Unit, hosted the 3rd Round Table Conference on *Advancing the Economic Empowerment of Care Leavers in Gujarat*, focusing on strengthening aftercare support systems. The event brought together key stakeholders to discuss education, employment, mentorship, and policies to ensure care leavers transition into independent adulthood successfully.
- [Hold medical & UDID camps in 4 childcare centres every month: DC](#)
Deputy Commissioner Jitendra Jorwal has mandated that medical and Unique Disability ID (UDID) camps be held twice monthly at all four government-run childcare institutions in Ludhiana district. These camps, scheduled for the first and third Wednesdays, will feature specialists from various medical fields to conduct comprehensive health check-ups for resident children. Additionally, officials from the Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) will be present to facilitate the issuance of Aadhaar cards to the children.
- [CRY India is Changing the Landscape of Girl Child Rights in India](#)
The article highlights CRY India's journey from its founding in 1979 by Rippan Kapur to its impactful initiatives across 21 states, focusing on education, child marriage prevention, anti-trafficking efforts, and nutrition for marginalized children. It showcases CRY's advocacy for policy changes and community collaborations to ensure every child's right to survival, protection, development, and participation.
- [11K children in Odisha vulnerable to child marriages, says NCPCR](#)
The article discusses the identification of over 10,000 children in Odisha as vulnerable to child marriages, following a nationwide survey by the NCPCR. It emphasizes the implementation of Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) to prevent child marriages, focusing on tracking school absenteeism and dropout rates.

- [NCPCR to states: Hold child labour rescue campaigns till March 31](#)
The article covers the NCPCR's launch of the pan-India Rescue and Rehabilitation Campaign 2.0, targeting the eradication of child labour across various sectors. The initiative focuses on rescuing and rehabilitating children working in industries such as factories, hotels, and mines, with a deadline of March 31.
- [MWCD gets hiked allocation of Rs 26,889 Cr](#)
The Union Budget 2025-26 allocates ₹26,889.69 crore to the Ministry of Women and Child Development, with significant funding directed towards the 'Saksham' initiative. This reflects the government's commitment to enhancing programs for women's and children's welfare.

ASIA

- [Police offer child care support for vendors at north China market](#)
A police station in Tangshan, China, has been transformed into a temporary daycare, providing a safe and warm space for children of busy fruit wholesalers during the Spring Festival. This initiative ensures the children's well-being, offering security, learning activities, and relief for hardworking parents amid the holiday rush.
- [Kazakhstan Commemorates 30th Anniversary of Child Rights Convention Ratification with Special Stamp](#)
Kazakhstan commemorated the 30th anniversary of its ratification of the Convention on the Rights of the Child by unveiling a special stamp, underscoring its commitment to child rights.
- [Only 330 orphans and children without parental care have mentors in Kazakhstan](#)
In Kazakhstan, only 330 out of 2,962 orphans and children without parental care have mentors, accounting for just over 10% of such children in the country. Deputy Asem Rakhmetova highlighted this issue during a plenary session, emphasizing the need for increased mentorship support.
- [UNICEF Iran and Tejarat Bank launch joint fundraising campaign for Children with Disabilities](#)
UNICEF Iran and Tejarat Bank have launched a nationwide fundraising campaign to improve the lives of children with disabilities in Iran, promoting inclusion and equal opportunities. The campaign, titled "Disability is part of me, not all of me," raises awareness and encourages public donations.
- [‘The end of women and children’s rights’: outrage as Iraqi law allows child marriage](#)
Iraqi parliament has passed a controversial law allowing children as young as nine to marry, giving religious authorities control over family affairs, including marriage and divorce. Women's rights groups and activists have condemned the law, fearing it will legalize child marriage and harm women's and children's rights.
- [Family Care Authority concludes Community Awareness Campaign strengthening family support networks](#)
The Family Care Authority (FCA) concluded its Community Awareness Campaign across Abu Dhabi, Al Ain, and Al Dhafra, promoting its services for family well-being. The campaign included digital posts, workshops, and events to educate the public on resources for family support, inclusion, and empowerment.

INTERNATIONAL

- [Children’s care reform an international priority on Foreign Secretary and Barry Keoghan visit to Bulgaria](#)
UK Foreign Secretary David Lammy and actor Barry Keoghan launch a global campaign advocating for family-based care for children, aiming to end institutionalisation. The UK-led alliance, joined by six countries, will push for sustainable care reforms worldwide.
- [The ‘guardian angels’ helping make Rwanda an orphanage-free country](#)
A network of trained foster parents in Rwanda, supported by Hope and Homes for Children, is transforming the lives of children previously abandoned in institutions. The initiative is part of Rwanda's national policy to eliminate orphanages and place children in family-based care.
- [New Year- a time to ensure a family for every child](#)
The article highlights UNICEF's call to ensure every child grows up in a family, stressing the importance of deinstitutionalization and foster care in Montenegro. It advocates for better support for families in crisis to prevent the separation of children from their biological families.
- [New 'House Project' to help young care leavers to live independently launches in Peterborough](#)
The House Project in Peterborough helps care leavers aged 16-18 by teaching life skills to support their transition to independent living. It provides community-based support, including guidance on employment, budgeting, and managing a household.
- [State Rep. Kenneth Paschal: Strengthening families, protecting children – a call for commonsense pro-family legislation in 2025](#)
Alabama State Rep. Kenneth Paschal is advocating for the "Best Interest of the Child Protection Act – Shared Parenting," which promotes equal parenting time in custody cases to support children's well-being. He urges bipartisan support for modernizing child custody laws, emphasizing the benefits of strong family structures in reducing crime and improving mental health outcomes.



NEW RESOURCES IN THE ALTERNATIVE CARE SPACE

PUBLICATIONS

- [Year End Review: Achievements of Ministry of Women and Child Development, Government of India, 2024](#)
The Ministry of Women and Child Development (MoWCD) India achieved significant milestones in 2024, focusing on nutrition, early childhood education, women's safety, and empowerment. Key initiatives include Mission Saksham Anganwadi & POSHAN 2.0, Mission Shakti, Mission Vatsalya, and various campaigns promoting gender equality, workforce participation, and child welfare. MoWCD's 2024 initiatives strengthened nutrition, early education, women's empowerment, and child welfare through flagship programs like POSHAN 2.0, Mission Shakti, and Vatsalya, driving inclusive development and safety.
- [United States sees significant increase in orphanhood](#)
A new study published in *Nature Medicine* reveals a 56% increase in orphanhood in the U.S. between 2000 and 2021, with 2.9 million children losing a parent or primary caregiver. The research highlights drug overdoses as the leading cause since 2020, disproportionately affecting marginalized communities. Experts call for targeted policies to support bereaved children and prevent further caregiver deaths.

- [Our cities, through our eyes](#)
This innovative approach published by *UNICEF*, showcases children's perspectives on urban life in East Asia and the Pacific through photography, highlighting challenges and strengths in health, education, safety, and play. It serves as both a storytelling and advocacy tool, fostering direct dialogue between children and policymakers to promote child-friendly urban environments.
- [Prospects for Children in 2025: Building Resilient Systems for Children's Futures](#)
The report highlights the escalating crises affecting children—climate change, conflict, and economic instability—and emphasizes the need for resilient, systems-based approaches to uphold their rights and well-being. It calls for strengthening education, healthcare, and disaster preparedness to address current and future global challenges.

STUDIES

- [Families' perspectives on the impact of signs of safety in child protection services through the lens of self-determination theory](#)
This study explores how the Signs of Safety (SofS) approach, framed by Self-Determination Theory, supports families in Child Protection Services by fostering autonomous motivation. It highlights the impact of SofS on family autonomy, collaboration, and self-endorsed goals, enhancing children's safety and well-being.
- [Everything for the child: Making grandparents into primary foster caregivers](#)
This study examines social workers' expectations of ideal foster grandparents in the Czech Republic, focusing on their roles as caregivers and therapeutic figures. It emphasizes the need for grandparent-specific interventions and reflection to minimize biases in social work practices.
- [Kinship care in the welfare system: The lived experience and the case for reform](#)
The study examines the challenges of formal kinship care in Australia, highlighting stakeholder perspectives on government engagement, support gaps, and systemic barriers. It calls for policy and practice reforms to address carer hardship, worker confusion, and the unique complexities of kinship care.
- [Family dynamics in Kinship Care](#)
The study explores how kinship carers in Scotland navigate complex family dynamics, balancing child welfare with managing relationships with birth parents. It highlights carers' resilience amid emotional challenges, limited decision-making control, and ongoing risks to stability.

POLICY BRIEFS

- [Position on the Reform of the Child Care and Support System, Including the Development of Support Programs for Orphans and Children Deprived of Parental Care \(and Individuals from Among Them\)](#)
In Ukraine, for the first time, individuals who have experienced institutional care, as well as those who have experience with family-based care, have united and agreed upon a common position regarding the reform of the child care and support system, including the development of programs to support orphaned children and children deprived of parental care.

TOOLKITS

- [Best Practices for Serving Young People Transitioning From Foster Care](#)
The purpose of this Information Memorandum (IM) is to provide information on best practices for providing quality programs and services to young people who are preparing to transition out of the foster care system in the U.S.



YOUNG VOICES THAT APPEAR IN THE MEDIA

- [America's Favourite Pastime is Failing Native Foster Youth](#)
The article highlights the systemic failure of the U.S. foster care system, particularly in Minnesota, to protect Native American children, leading to cultural erasure and trauma. It calls for stronger enforcement of the Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) to ensure Native children are placed in culturally appropriate homes.
- [Beyond the Dream: Revolutionizing the Child Welfare System for a Brighter Future](#)
This article advocates for a reformed child welfare system that prioritizes long-term support, seamless resources, and family preservation. It calls for systemic change to ensure foster youth receive the care, stability, and opportunities they need beyond emancipation.
- [From Care-Leaver to Venturer](#)
This article shares Josh's transformative journey through the Raleigh SES Explorer Award, highlighting his personal growth, cultural experiences, and newfound confidence. It emphasizes the impact of seizing opportunities and embracing challenges for self-discovery and positive change.



OPPORTUNITIES AND EVENTS (JOBS, CONFERENCE ALERTS, CALL FOR ABSTRACTS)

- [Panel chairs and advisers conference | 3 March 2025](#)
- [Global Disability Summit | 2 – 3 April, 2025 Berlin](#)
- [Fifth Biennial International Childhood Trauma Conference | 17– 22 August 2025](#)

THANK YOU FOR READING!

Whether it's new policies, guidelines, schemes, toolkits, or the voices of care leavers, we want to hear from you. Your contributions will be acknowledged in our newsletter as we work together to share knowledge and grow together.