

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

- [CARA encourages adoptive parents for foster care and adoption](#)
The article highlights efforts by CARA during Adoption Awareness Month to promote foster care and adoption of older children and children with special needs, emphasizing the importance of awareness and improved processes. It also shares stories of foster care challenges and successes in India.
- [500 children participated in Child Rights Week event](#)
The article reports on an event in Madurai where around 500 children from slums and villages participated in activities aimed at education and skill-building, fostering their growth and development.
- [Punjab to host 'Child Marriage-Free India' campaign](#)
Punjab is hosting a statewide oath-taking ceremony on November 27 as part of the 'Child Marriage-Free India' campaign, uniting diverse stakeholders to raise awareness and eliminate child marriage. The event aims to foster collective action for a safer and equitable future for children.
- [Bringing a child home: The journey of foster parents in India](#)
The article explores the journey of foster parents in India, highlighting their challenges and adaptations as new guidelines aim to promote foster parenting. It contrasts foster care with adoption, emphasizing its temporary nature and the emotional adjustments involved.
- [Arpan Launches Groundbreaking #ProtectedByPOCSO Campaign To Combat Child Sexual Abuse In India](#)
The article highlights Arpan NGO's #ProtectedByPOCSO campaign, which aims to deter child sexual abuse by warning offenders of severe legal and social consequences under the POCSO Act. The campaign features widespread public awareness efforts across cities, schools, and media platforms to promote child safety and prevention.

ASIA

- [Thailand adoption update: A new opportunity for waiting families](#)
The article highlights to streamline adoptions and updates on available children, while inviting families affected by China's program closure to consider Thailand's adoption program. It highlights new eligibility criteria, current child needs, and application opportunities for prospective adoptive families.
- [Korea adoption program update](#)
The article discusses New Beginnings' collaboration with the Eastern Social Welfare Society (ESWS) in Korea to navigate upcoming regulatory changes to international adoption, emphasizing the need to prepare for potential child placements before July 2025.
- [Regional conference champions equitable access to education for out-of-school children and youth in South-East Asia](#)
The article discusses a UNESCO-led regional conference in Vietnam focused on promoting equitable access to vocational and transferable skills for out-of-school children and youth in Southeast Asia, aligning with SDG 4. It emphasizes collaboration among education stakeholders and cross-sector partnerships to address disparities in education and skills development.
- [Many Registered Foster Parents in Japan Not Taking in Children](#)
The article discusses the challenges in Japan's foster care system, where mismatches between foster parents' preferences and children's needs have led to 70% of registered foster households not taking in children. It highlights the need for systemic improvements to increase foster placements and provide home-based care for more children in need.

INTERNATIONAL

- [Family resource centre celebrates 25 years of strengthening families](#)
The article highlights the 25th anniversary of the Family Resource Center (FRC) in Eau Claire, which has supported families with young children since 1999 through free programs, parenting education, and community-building initiatives. It emphasizes the centre's growing importance amid modern parenting challenges and invites the community to celebrate its milestone.
- [UNICEF welcomes adoption of new strategy to realize family-based care for every child](#)
The article highlights Ukraine's adoption of a four-year strategy (2024-2028) to prioritize family-based care, aiming to reduce institutionalized children by 30% and ensure 95% grow up in family environments by 2028. Supported by UNICEF, the plan focuses on strengthening families, expanding alternative care, and reintegrating children from institutions into family settings.
- [11 helpful organizations and resources for children with special needs in United States](#)
The article outlines 11 notable organizations and resources that support children with special needs and their families, focusing on inclusion, advocacy, and empowerment. It is based in the United States and highlights both national and local initiatives.
- [Minnesota Nonprofit Aims to Teach Transracial Foster Families How to Advocate for Their Kids](#)
The article highlights the challenges and strategies of transracial foster care in Minnesota, focusing on the support and training provided by Families Rising to help foster parents navigate racial issues and advocate for children of color. It emphasizes the importance of lived experiences and community support in fostering inclusive environments.
- [New York Tackles Racial Disproportionality in Juvenile Justice Decisions](#)
The article discusses efforts in New York State to address racial disparities in the juvenile justice system by diverting Black youth from court into supportive services. Schenectady County's approach, including team-based decision-making and "blind" case evaluation, has shown promising results in reducing racial bias in diversion decisions.
- [Whose experiences are we relying on to explain what the reality of adoption feels like for adoptees?](#)
The article discusses how Scottish Adoption and Fostering's Young Ambassadors launched the "We Talk Adoption and Fostering" podcast to give a voice to young adoptees, particularly those aged 18-25, and share their experiences of adoption and care. The podcast aims to reclaim the narrative, offering insights for both care-experienced individuals and professionals.



NEW RESOURCES IN THE ALTERNATIVE CARE SPACE

PUBLICATIONS

- [Understanding and preventing the separation of children from families](#)
The report by *SOS Children's Villages* serves as a resource for those designing and delivering family strengthening, child protection, and social protection systems and services, including programme and policy specialists in governments and non-governmental organizations, practitioners, researchers, and donors. It also supports care experienced children and young people in their advocacy efforts. The findings aim to improve children's care and protection across different contexts and inspire further research.
- [Multi-Country Programme Evaluation Synthesis Report of the Childcare and Deinstitutionalisation Reforms from 2009 to 2022 \(Summary\)](#)
The report by *UNICEF* and *Coram Children's Legal Centre* examines the legal, policy, and practice frameworks for alternative care across Europe and Central Asia, focusing on family strengthening and preventing unnecessary separation. It emphasizes the need for child-centered approaches and regional collaboration to improve care systems.
- [Modelling work-family conflict and turnover intention among social workers in China: the roles of job burnout and job satisfaction](#)
The study examines the impact of work-family conflict of social workers on turnover intention in China, revealing that it indirectly influences turnover through job burnout and job satisfaction. It emphasizes the stronger role of job burnout and work-to-family conflict in predicting turnover intention.
- [Making the digital world safer](#)
The report, published by *ECPAT*, *INTERPOL*, and *UNICEF*, examines the scale and nature of online child sexual exploitation and abuse in various countries. It provides evidence-based recommendations for strengthening legal, policy, and child protection systems to combat these crimes.
- [A home away from home: Narratives on residential care in eThekweni, KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa](#)
The study published in *Scottish Journal of Residential Child Care, Vol 23 No 2*, explores the experiences of adolescents living in residential care facilities in the eThekweni region of KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa, highlighting both positive and negative aspects of their daily lives and support within these settings.

STUDIES

- [The social and emotional wellbeing of children in out-of-home care: A scoping review exploring structural and social factors](#)
This study examines how social and structural factors are addressed in research on the social and emotional wellbeing of children in out-of-home care (OOHC). Through a scoping review of literature (2014–2023), it identifies a predominant focus on mental health and immediate social interactions, with limited attention to structural disadvantage.
- [Birth mothers' experiences of having children in kinship care](#)
The study explores the experiences of birth mothers whose children are placed in kinship care, focusing on their emotions, challenges, and relationships with caregivers. It highlights the need for better support systems to address their complex feelings and improve outcomes for all parties involved.
- [Meeting the challenges of participation? Care experienced people's involvement in social work practice and policy development](#)
The paper investigates the role of social work in supporting young people transitioning out of care, emphasizing the importance of relational approaches. It highlights how consistent, trust-based relationships with social workers can improve outcomes during this critical life stage.
- [Expanding the child care table of influence: Reaching under-resourced families to understand their needs and barriers to accessing early childhood care and education](#)
The study explores the barriers faced by under-resourced families in accessing high-quality early childhood education and care (ECEC) and identifies strategies to enhance participation, including community engagement and addressing systemic inequities. It emphasizes reducing costs, improving accessibility, and fostering trust with diverse families.

POLICY BRIEFS

- [Supporting adoption: vision and priorities- Scottish Government statement](#)
The Scottish Government has published its adoption vision statement outlining the importance of support to the adoption community and the government's strategy to achieve this.
- [Kinship care: assessment framework 2024](#)
The Scottish Government has published the Kinship Care Assessment Framework 2024, which is designed to assist social work practitioners.

TOOLKITS

- [Hellos and Goodbyes](#)
This new resource by *Australian Childhood Foundation*, provides a range of gestures that support connection and routine, which can be particularly useful for schools and services that children attend on a regular basis.
- [Child Protection System Strengthening Framework for Action](#)
This framework launched at the first Ministerial Conference on Ending Violence Against Children aims to strengthen child protection systems globally by promoting a cohesive approach to preventing and responding to violence against children in all contexts.



YOUNG VOICES THAT APPEAR IN THE MEDIA

- [Ending Institutions Is a Necessary Step Toward Abolition](#)
Sabrina Anderson and *Kaylah McMillan* advocates for reforming the child welfare system by eliminating harmful institutional placements and prioritizing family preservation and kinship care to amplifies the experiences of youth in care to drive policy change and support community-based solutions.
- [Foster Youth Deserve Better Than Unsafe, Scary Housing](#)
In this article *Cheyenne Deopersaud* discusses her traumatic experiences of foster youth in unsafe and inadequate institutional settings, emphasizing the need for reforms to prioritize family preservation and support calling for a shift away from institutional care to more community-based solutions that ensure the well-being of children.



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

- [IDA Online Course on the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities |31 Dec, 2024](#)
- [Online Course on Caring for Children Moving Alone: Protecting Unaccompanied and Separated Children | 31 Dec, 2024](#)
- [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.