

Volume 9 Issue 2 September 2022



Institutionalised Children  
Explorations and Beyond

---



Los Angeles | London | New Delhi  
Singapore | Washington DC | Melbourne

## **Aims and Scope**

*Institutionalised Children Explorations and Beyond* is an international, multi-disciplinary, peer-reviewed academic journal on Family Strengthening and Alternative Care for out-of-home-care (OHC) children and young persons, focused on the South Asia region. The journal documents original research papers, good models of care practices, comprehensive desk review papers, editorial and foreword, expert opinions, interviews, and book and movie reviews. Along with addressing issues that can influence policy reforms, decision-making and improve practices and standards of care, the content of the journal aspires to strengthen research, knowledge and practices currently prevalent in the region.

In essence, *Institutionalised Children Explorations and Beyond* sees itself as a forum for studies, discussions, debates and research on issues that would lead to better practices of care, improve mental health, and encourage the integration of OHC children and young persons, including the differently-abled, into the mainstream and thus to their inclusion in civil society. The journal will be of interest to board members, managers, caregivers, psychologists, counsellors, psychiatrists, volunteers, and social workers, in governmental and NGO organisations, as also to policy-makers, and university faculty who are interested in the care and study of children in institutions, as well as in other alternative forms of care. Students in social work, psychology, law and other related disciplines across the South Asian countries, as well as other mental health professionals interested in these studies, will find the journal useful. The scope includes encouraging studies on these issues by universities and hospitals, together with clinics, young professionals and those in the field of caregiving, especially in the non-governmental not-for-profit-sector. The belief is that such education, and sharing of knowledge and experiences would lead to more dynamic prevention as well as rehabilitation models.

## **Editor-in-Chief**

Monisha C. Nayar-Akhtar, *Psychotherapist & Psychoanalyst; Clinical Assistant Professor, University of Pennsylvania, USA*

## **International Liaison Editor**

Kiran Modi, *Founder Managing Trustee, Udayan Care*

## **Associate Editors**

Luis Aguilar Esponda, *Human Rights Officer, United Nations*

Rajeev Kumar, *Director of Programme –Asia, SOS Children’s Villages International*

## **Movie Editor**

Lakshmi Madhavan, *Mental Health Professional*

## **Country Editors**

**Bangladesh:** Md Enamul Haque, *National Director, SOS Children’s Villages International, Bangladesh*

**Pakistan:** Seema Arif, *Associate Professor, Department of Education, School of Social Sciences & Humanities, University of Management & Technology, Lahore, Pakistan*

**Sri Lanka:** Mallika R. Samaranayake, *Technical Lead, Child Protection in Crisis (CPC) Learning Network and Founder Member / President - Community of Evaluators (CoE) South Asia Network*

**Nepal:** Sumnima Tuladhar, *Executive Director, Child Workers in Nepal Concerned Centre (CWIN)*

## **Advisory Board**

Sumedha Gupta Ariely, *Associate Professor of the Practice of Global Health, Duke Global Health Institute, USA*

Jhuma Bhasak, *Psychoanalyst; Adjunct Faculty, Karnavati University, India*

Maria Rosaria Centrone, *Co-founder Articolo 12, Italy*

Ian Anand Forber-Pratt, *Deputy Executive Director, Children’s Emergency Relief International (CERI)*

N. Janardhan, *Assistant Professor, Psychiatric Social Work National Institute of Mental Health and Neurosciences, India*

Shubha Murthi, *Entrepreneur, Leadership Coach, EQi assessor, India*

Sushama Sharma, *Professor of Special Education, Kurukshetra University, India*

Hiranthi Wijemanne, *Member, U.N. Committee Rights of the Child, Sri Lanka*

## **Funding Support**

SOS, CVI



SOS CHILDREN'S  
VILLAGES



## Contents

<b>Editorial</b>	139
<i>Monisha Nayar-Akhtar</i>	
<b>Foreword</b>	143
<i>Kiran Modi and Leena Prasad</i>	
<b>Interview</b>	
Care Leaving and Aftercare: Interview with Mark Riddell	147
<i>Gurneet Kaur Kalra</i>	
<b>Research Articles</b>	
The Importance and Impact of Participation and Network Building in Care Leaving: The Use and Significance of the Care Leaver Declaration from the International Care Leavers Convention 2020	152
<i>Fabienne Landerer</i>	
'Preparation and Transition into Adult Life—Guide for Professionals': An Educational Tool from the SOS Children's Villages	161
<i>Joana Lobo, Cláudia Urbano and Maria João Leote de Carvalho</i>	
Institutional Care and Family Reintegration: The Transition Process in the Voices of Young Brazilians	168
<i>Marlene Schüssler D'Aroz</i>	
The Evolving Care Leavers Networks in South Asia: An Overview	176
<i>Gurneet Kaur Kalra and Leena Prasad</i>	
<b>In Focus</b>	
Antecedents to Child Placement in Residential Care: A Systematic Review	188
<i>Nicole G. Wilke, Amanda Hiles Howard, Sarah Todorov, Justine Bautista and Jedd Medefind</i>	
<b>Good Model</b>	
What Does International Research Identify as the Best Practice Housing Pathways for Young People Transitioning from Out of Home Care?	202
<i>Jacinta Chavulak and Philip Mendes</i>	

## **International Perspectives**

- Reviving Hearts That Were Born to Advocate for the Cause of Children and Youth Without Parental Care: Wataneya Society's Youth Forum 215  
*Manar Nada and Yasmine El Hagry*
- The Journey of Developing, Mandating and Applying the National Quality Standards for Care Homes in Egypt 225  
*Noha Emam Hassanin and Yosr Wagih Kotb*

## **Opinion Piece**

- Journey of Data Collection: My Experience Narrative of Working with Destitute Children Residing at Children's Home 237  
*Neethu Prakashan*

## **Movie Review**

- Lakshmi Madhavan* 246

## **Book Review**

- Kakul Hai* 249

## **Brief Communications** 252

## **Upcoming Events** 255

Visit <http://journals.sagepub.com/home/icb>  
Free access to tables of contents and abstracts.

---

## Editorial

Institutionalised Children Explorations  
and Beyond

9(2) 139–142, 2022

© 2022 Udayan Care and SAGE

Publications India Pvt Ltd

Reprints and permissions:

[in.sagepub.com/journals-permissions-india](http://in.sagepub.com/journals-permissions-india)

DOI: 10.1177/23493003221117022

[journals.sagepub.com/home/icb](http://journals.sagepub.com/home/icb)



The September 2022 issue of the journal, with a special focus on care leavers and aftercare, presents a selection of articles that further one's understanding of issues related to community integration, housing difficulties, preparedness and transition planning for an independent life post care system, and the importance and need of networking. Perusing through these articles, you will find comprehensive and nuanced perspectives on the experiences of care leavers, their transition preparedness and the challenges thereof. This special focus is timely and warranted as the global focus on children and youth in need of care and protection has widened to incorporate several dimensions of care, including not only the mental and physical health of care leavers but also examining the dilemmas surrounding the transition of young adults into mainstream society and the likelihood of success in their personal journeys. We solicited articles from a wide group of national and international authors. Put together, they provide a roadmap for how one can be prepared for transition, to the development of specific skills that they might need, to working on increasing autonomy and community integration, to exploring mental health needs—including trauma-related issues—and to acknowledging that community integration may lead to the use of drugs and marginalisation, which could impede their adjustment. Forming networks with like-minded individuals and accessing services whenever needed in a timely manner is seen as contributing to a satisfactory result. While most authors acknowledge that any programme or manual for transitioning must be specific to the individual, they do put forth guidelines for ensuring a healthy outcome. Review of the literature as well as obtaining candid and authentic responses from care leavers themselves serve to strengthen the focus of this journal and provide a richer examination of this issue. As usual, the work of compiling and reviewing the articles depends on the dedicated work of our staff, the editorial board and, of course, our esteemed team of peer reviewers who selflessly give their time and energy to complete the process.

The foreword for this issue by Ms Leena Prasad provides an overview of the aftercare situation and the development of aftercare provisions and systems in India. It also highlights various programmes, initiatives and support groups created and implemented after the first groundwork study on aftercare in five states of India in 2019.

Nothing is more powerful than a personal account of survival and successful community integration. Our interviewee for this issue is Mr Mark Riddell, who

exemplifies all that one could look for and aspire to in his personal journey. As the current National Advisor for Care Leavers within the National Government of United Kingdom, Mr Mark Riddell has lived in an institution and, as a care leaver, has selflessly devoted himself to providing direction and guidance to others for over 25 years, especially to professionals practicing in the field and engaging in this line of work. For young adults who are in the process of transitioning and who choose to remain active in this field and are seeking guidance, this is an essential read.

Four research articles broaden and deepen the discussion around care leavers. We begin with an article that highlights the transnational nature of this issue and the desire to create a network of professionals that understand and are dedicated to exploring this process in its entirety. It was with this in mind that, in 2020, the 1st International Care Leavers' Convention was organised so that professionals from around the world could engage in an important dialogue about the issues and conditions that are necessary to facilitate a successful transition from an institutional setting to community integration. While this convention was originally planned to be held in New Delhi, India, it was shifted to an online platform as a result of the pandemic. Fabienne Landerer's article summarises and highlights the transnational declaration that formed the basis of this convention. She identifies 11 universal gaps that are currently present in the community integration of most young adults. These are as follows: financial security; housing; education; career support and employability; psychosocial support; physical health, which includes health, nutrition and hygiene; legislative and policy reforms; awareness and identity; participation; the social network; and finally, inclusion and social protection. These are key structural elements that, for the most part, need to be in place; or at least provisions should be made for ongoing consideration as individuals move into a community framework.

Narrowing the focus to one setting, Claudia Urbano, in her article with her co-authors, focuses on the development of autonomy and social integration as essential components for people to become active citizens in a civil society. From a study conducted in a SOS Children's Village home in Portugal, within the context of Project Porta, Ms Urbano provides specific guidelines for transitioning into adult life in the community. Known as the Preparation and Transition into Adult Life—Guide for Professionals, her document defines individual strategies for care and transition, working with trauma, helping individuals become more autonomous and developing connections within the community to foster long-term adjustment.

Following this, Marlene Schussler D'Aroz, in her article, delves into the personal experiences of five young Brazilian men ranging in age from 26–30 years to examine the factors that either favourably impact and/or impede a successful transition into the community. Conducting semi-structured interviews, she examines the causes of institutionalisation, the preparation for transition, the deinstitutionalisation process, and the perspectives of these young men on their present and future life. The research carried out in the city of Curitiba, Parana, in Southern Brazil suggests that long-term outcomes will depend on the involvement of the biological families, access to effective networking services and policies,

and the involvement of different sectors that provide a containing and holding environment. The effects of drugs and of marginalisation that could impact this transition are clearly recognised, and she emphasises the need for what she calls a ‘welcoming family’, which allows for healthy community integration.

The role of networking and having support structures with healthy connections was the impetus for the formation of an association called CLAN, short for Care Leavers Association and Network. Formed in 2018, this is a youth-led initiative that aims to support, mentor and advocate for all care leavers in Delhi, India. The formation of this association has served as a model for many networking organisations around the country, and it exemplifies the inherent need for connections, networking, safe environments and support from others that provide the essential glue for a healthy outcome in the transition process. This article accounts for various care leavers networks across South Asia by providing a brief about their mission, vision, account of care leavers, activities undertaken and the way forward.

Nicole G. Wilke and her co-authors provide an interesting ‘in-focus’ review. Conducting a thorough analysis of the literature, Ms Wilke seeks to (a) examine and aggregate the current literature related to antecedents to child placement in residential care, (b) distil the antecedents represented into common themes and (c) specifically highlight what percentage of children in RCCs have living, biological parent practitioners, which can begin to refine services to better prevent child separation from parental care, enable safe and effective reintegration when separation has occurred, and identify the most appropriate and effective options for alternative care settings when they are required. This article is noteworthy in its extensive and inclusive reach, and it serves as a starting point for further research being conducted in this area of interest.

For the best practice model, we present an extensive review by Jacinta Chavulak and Philip Mendes of existing housing pathways. Their guidelines support good transition planning, continuing support from responsible adults, and the availability of safe and affordable housing and extended care till at least 21 years of age. The author identifies four articles from Europe, five from the United Kingdom, two from the United States of America, two from Canada and an additional two that had international samples (either policy analyses or literature reviews). Compiling the findings from these articles led to specific guidelines that serve as good model markers for clinical practitioners and policymakers who are immersed in working with young adults and their transition into community living.

For our international perspective, we included two articles from Egypt that examined two aspects of this issue within the same society. Manar Nada examines this topic by presenting the Wataneya Society, which launched the ‘Youth Forum’ in 2017, to support youths’ transition to independence. This Forum targets youth aged 18 and older, with the objectives of (a) providing a safe space for the youth to exchange their thoughts and experiences; (b) enabling youth to discuss the challenges they face and come up with possible solutions through cooperating with experts across different fields to raise the youth’s awareness; and (c) empowering the youth to communicate to the concerned authorities and equipping

them with the needed skills to become agents of change to their cause. In the second article, Noha Emam Hassanin explores the standardisation process and the crucial impact of unifying the care system to ensure that children receive quality care inside these care homes. As a result, since 2008, Wataneya Society has pioneered the development of the National Quality Standards for Care Homes in collaboration with the Egyptian Ministry of Social Solidarity, International non-government organisations (INGOs) and NGOs working in the alternative care sector. Wataneya Society continues to assist care homes to apply the National Quality Standards' safe environment for children and youth.

Neethu Prakashan, in her opinion piece, defines the tedious process involved in her journey to access adolescents growing up in institutional settings. Overall, her article highlights her experiences as a researcher and the lessons she learnt, along with dealing with the challenges imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic. She concludes by offering advice and suggestions for fellow researchers and the challenges that they might face when dealing with this population. She advises that they be prepared accordingly and recommends that the care institutions and other policymakers engage in a preventive intervention programme, rather than addressing the issue later as a conclusion, through this experience.

Our movie editor, Lakshmi Madhavan, does not disappoint us with her choice and review of the movie 'Blue Miracle'. The movie is based on the true story of an orphanage in Cabo San Lucas, Mexico, and it depicts the experiences of a group of Mexican boys who have been orphaned or abandoned. They live in an orphanage called Casa Hogar. While themes of pain, loss and grief are palpable and everywhere, the children and caretakers retain a sense of hope. This serves as the scaffolding that engulfs the lives of all the characters. The survival of the orphans depends on the family-like style of the orphanage along with the care and love that the main caregivers impart.

The review of the book *Call me Auntie* by Kakul Hai provides an account of the journey of Anne, a Nigerian girl, who grew up in care system in the United Kingdom. In the end, all these articles speak to the overwhelming commitment that individuals all around the world make towards ensuring that a young orphan who enters an institution at any age will not be forgotten, nor will their life be in vain. Grounded in their belief, firm in their commitment, and guided by hope and desire to make it a better world that these authors and others like them continue to research and add to our growing body of knowledge.

**Monisha Nayar-Akhtar**

*Editor-in-Chief*

---

## Foreword

Institutionalised Children Explorations  
and Beyond

9(2) 143–146, 2022

© 2022 Udayan Care and SAGE

Publications India Pvt Ltd

Reprints and permissions:

[in.sagepub.com/journals-permissions-india](http://in.sagepub.com/journals-permissions-india)

DOI: 10.1177/23493003221120109

[journals.sagepub.com/home/icb](http://journals.sagepub.com/home/icb)



Over the last few years, Udayan Care's (an NGO based in Delhi, India) focussed work on aftercare for and with care leavers has gained considerable momentum. At national level, a considerable amount of attention was attracted after the seminal research on aftercare by Udayan Care got published in 2019, titled 'Beyond 18 - Leaving Child Care Institutions, Supporting Youth Leaving Care - A study of Aftercare Practices', which was supported by UNICEF India and a few other partners. The evidence from the research clearly highlighted the poor outcomes that care leavers display as young adults in comparison with their non-care-experienced young peers due to their experiences and treatment before care, in care and post transition. It also stated that risks such as low educational attainment, low skilling and readiness for employment, housing instability, or a higher vulnerability to experiencing mental health issues were common across five sample states in India. However, there was enough evidence regarding a number of positive changes which were seen at various state level policy work. The 'Beyond 18' study served to provide a clear framework of pathways to support care leavers through the 'Sphere of Aftercare,' a rehabilitative framework, which includes eight essential and interdependent domains that can be used as pathways to support care leavers, depending on their needs and individual situation. As a result of this research, UNICEF in partnership with government of some states invited Udayan Care to demonstrate a model on transition planning and aftercare, and since 2019, work in these states has led to many progresses, with the state care leavers' network formation being one of them.

India has made several developments in aftercare in the recent years, where Gujarat came up as the first state to increase the amount of the monthly financial support provided to aftercare youth while Maharashtra was one of the few states to bring in guidelines for implementing aftercare in a better way at the state level. The Odisha government also issued the guidelines and supported the care leavers in the state to form their own care leaver's network. Recently the Haryana Government has also notified its scheme to support children exiting care institutions and has made the district commissioner the guardian of all such children. This is a path breaking policy in India and it is hoped that other states will follow suit.

Mindful of the absence of adequate preparation of children in the care system to leave care, and the dire need to continue to support them after 18, led Udayan Care to initiate the 'Aftercare Outreach Program' (AOP) in the midst of COVID-19. The pandemic only further increased the vulnerabilities of care leavers, forcing

many to continue to live in their institutions and pushing many into homelessness, joblessness and re-triggering their childhood trauma all over again (Modi et al., 2021). AOP as a direct financial and mentoring support proved beneficial to many young care leavers to pursue their desired skilling courses and start their journey of independent living.

At the global level, the '1<sup>st</sup> Global Care Leavers' Convention' that we organised with other partners clearly highlighted that no matter where the care leaver is located, their challenges remain the same during and after their stay in the care system. Voices of care leavers from different countries indicated that young adults transitioning from a care system often feel a sense of desertion with little to no guidance for a safe social inclusion. With few opportunities in a competitive world to underlying gaps in the policies, care leavers look out for a 'safety net' to build a secure future as independent adults. They also look for a community to fall back on and connect with peers to get through various challenges to improve their adult outcomes and to identify opportunities beyond borders. With the participation of close to 2300 care leavers, practitioners, academicians, and policy makers, from over 83 countries from six continents, the Convention led to the inception of guiding documents to aid policymakers and practitioners to devise policies on leaving Care. These were also presented in a post Conference event, before a panel of policymakers from 11 countries which catalysed the idea of participation and inclusion, support from Government and Civil Society, continuity of relationship with Caregivers, creating a 'safety net' for Care Leavers, consensus on the age of leaving Care as 25, financial security, a partnership among agencies and maintenance of adequate data systems.

The first Global Care Leavers Convention held virtually in 2020 thus led to the establishment of the Global Care Leavers community (GCLC) as a safe platform for them to build connections beyond transnational borders and exchange opportunities and share interest for a positive social inclusion of each Care leaver. The global care leavers have their own 'Declaration of transnational needs amidst COVID-19 and beyond' which was endorsed by 42 networks and organizations. In many countries, they have been able to use this advocacy tool to advocate for their cause. The global community is driven by the young people and they have been able to organise their monthly Sunday Café sessions for the whole of 2021 and through 2022 and are now getting ready to put together the 2nd Convention by the end of 2022 itself.

Way back in India, the community of care leavers have seen themselves collectivise as networks at a state and national level where many of them are also the members of the global community. The networks of care leavers exist in many states of India such as Delhi, Gujarat, Telangana, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Odisha, Assam, Rajasthan and others. Looking at and understanding the importance of bringing the young care leavers together, UNICEF India rolled out the national care leavers' network in Sept 2021 and is working to further build its membership and structure. (Bhardwaj et al., 2022). Most recently, the govt. of Telangana has facilitated the launch of the state care leavers' network where the young persons have chosen to name it CLAT (Care Leavers Association

Telangana). The initiation and strengthening of these local care leavers' networks in the country is a positive sign of the care experienced youth having their own safe platforms and spaces to express themselves.

With UNICEF India's support again, in 2021 an exclusive customised fellowship for care leavers in India was initiated by Udayan Care. Starting with 8 fellows from 6 states in India, this programme has a vision to mentor young care leavers as change-makers for care leaving in India. While the selection process was closely done with the participation of more accomplished care leavers themselves, the fellowship name has also been chosen by the first batch of fellows themselves as LIFT (Learning In Fellowship Together).

The cumulative effect of all the above progress shows that the last few years have seen an increased interest in supporting care leavers, enabling their skills and providing them with platforms and spaces to be their own voice.

At Udayan Care, working with children and youth in alternative care for the last 28 years now, our aim is to support practice, policy and decision making for an improved, transition planning and better aftercare ecosystem at global, national and local level. It is very evident that the voices of children and care leavers must inform the practical measures that should be taken across different areas of care reform in order to achieve system change. The global commitment through the 2021 day of general discussion (DGD), which focussed on children's rights and alternative care and was held on the 16 - 17 September 2021 (where Udayan Care facilitated multiple submissions). The final recommendations from here are to provide comprehensive support to care leavers by developing and implementing policies to ensure comprehensive, planned, ongoing and individualized financial, emotional and practical support to care leavers and their networks.

Going forward, we need a mindful and enabling approach to support youth who are transitioning away from care to avoid their re-traumatisation. Care leavers need to be supported in every country so as to reduce the risk of homelessness, unemployment and substance abuse, etc. Special focus must be given to female care leavers in gender sensitive methods along with providing support and provisions for care-experienced children and youth with disabilities. As also emphasised in the policy brief for care leaving based on voices of care leavers and the concerned stakeholders, the most important aspect of child protection today is to listen, hear and embody the words of young people and children in care. The need for more data on alternative care and interventions that can assess care leavers' needs, their numbers and their vulnerabilities thereby understanding the better outcomes are certain areas that still need investment.

This edition of ICB is dedicated to all the care leavers and to all children in care who will soon transition away to independent living. It is only with their active participation that we can change the situation where they are no longer the most vulnerable and disadvantaged in our communities. Today's reality across nations that exposes such young people to further risks, and reduces their likelihood of full social and economic engagement in mainstream society is totally unacceptable for any civilised society, and must change soon.

**References**

- Aftercare Outreach Programme. <https://udayancare.org/aftercare-outreach-programme/aftercare-outreach-programme-aop>
- A Brief for Practitioners. [http://www.careleaverscommunity.org/assets/files/Practitioners\\_Brief.pdf](http://www.careleaverscommunity.org/assets/files/Practitioners_Brief.pdf)
- A Brief for Policy Makers. [http://www.careleaverscommunity.org/assets/files/Practitioners\\_Brief.pdf](http://www.careleaverscommunity.org/assets/files/Practitioners_Brief.pdf)
- Bhardwaj, S., Roy, S., & Charegaonkar, A. (2022). Addressing the challenges and agency of youth leaving care in India during Covid-19. *Relational Child and Youth Care Journal*, 35(1), 64–81.
- Day of General Discussion Outcome Report. DGD-Outcome-report-and-Recommendations.pdf (ohchr.org)
- Declaration of transnational needs amidst COVID-19 and beyond. <http://www.careleaverscommunity.org/declaration.html#>
- First Global Care Leavers Convention - [http://www.careleaverscommunity.org/assets/files/CLC\\_Report.pdf](http://www.careleaverscommunity.org/assets/files/CLC_Report.pdf)
- LIFT (Learning In Fellowship Together (LIFT)). <https://udayancare.org/advocacy-programme/fellowship-care-leavers-india>
- Modi, K., Kalra, G., & Prasad, L. (2021). Alternative care in the times of COVID in India: Udayan Care's response. *The Therapeutic Care Journal*. <https://thetcj.org/in-residence-articles/alternative-care-in-the-times-of-covid-in-india-udayan-cares-response-by-kiran-modi-gurneet-kalra-leena-prasad>

**Kiran Modi***Liasoning Editor**ICB journal, Founder and Managing Trustee**Udayan Care***Leena Prasad***Associate Director**Advocacy Research and Training Department**Udayan Care*

## Brief Communications - September 2022 issue

Institutionalised Children Explorations  
and Beyond

9(2) 252–254, 2022

© 2022 Udayan Care and SAGE  
Publications India Pvt Ltd

Reprints and permissions:

[in.sagepub.com/journals-permissions-india](http://in.sagepub.com/journals-permissions-india)

DOI: 10.1177/23493003221117307

[journals.sagepub.com/home/icb](http://journals.sagepub.com/home/icb)



- **India - Learning In Fellowship Together (LIFT)**

Initiated by Udayan Care, with support from UNICEF, a first-ever Fellowship of its kind in India, known as ‘Learning In Fellowship Together (LIFT)’, is a logical step to take forward the recommendations of the study “Beyond 18” on Aftercare, published in 2019. This year-long Fellowship focuses on developing and nurturing Care Leavers in India as agents of change, who will contribute to the cause of improving the overall situation of Care Leaving in India. The Fellowship encourages the Fellows’ participation in researching the real-life challenges of children living in the Child Care Institutions (CCIs) and/or Care Leavers and advocating for the support needed to bring about change.

- **Sri Lanka - UNICEF: Economic Crisis In Sri Lanka Hurting Children Most**

As Sri Lanka descends further into its worst economic and political crisis in 70 years, it is children who are suffering the most. Nearly half of all children in Sri Lanka require some form of humanitarian assistance, according to UNICEF’s appeal for support. Even before the current crisis, Sri Lanka had the world’s seventh-highest child malnutrition rates and was second in South Asia for child wasting under the age of 5. “We are in a race against time,” said Christian Skoog, UNICEF Representative to Sri Lanka. (*UNICEF: Economic Crisis In Sri Lanka Hurting Children Most*. <https://www.forbes.com/sites/unicefusa/2022/07/07/unicef-economic-crisis-in-sri-lanka-hurting-children-most/?sh=5196325629af>)

- **Ukraine - UN’s Bachelet concerned over Ukraine orphans ‘deported’ to Russia for adoption**

The UN’s top rights official expressed her concern on Wednesday at reports that Ukrainian children have been “forcibly deported” from the country’s embattled eastern regions, and taken to Russia for adoption. Michelle Bachelet told the Human Rights Council that her Office, OHCHR, has been looking into the allegations that “Youngsters have been taken from orphanages in Donbas, where Russia has steadily gained ground amidst intense fighting in recent weeks.” (*UN’s Bachelet concerned over Ukraine orphans ‘deported’ to Russia for adoption*. <https://reliefweb.int/report/ukraine/uns-bachelet-concerned-over-ukraine-orphans-deported-russia-adoption>)

- **Africa - The shock of 134 500 Covid orphans in South Africa**  
South Africans were horrified by the news that Covid-19 has led to an estimated 134 500 orphans in our country. This means that at least one in every 200 children in every age group will have experienced Covid-19-associated orphanhood. In what researchers describe as a “heart-breaking hidden pandemic”, millions of children globally have been orphaned or lost a caregiver due to Covid-19. (*The shock of 134 500 Covid orphans in South Africa*. <https://mg.co.za/special-reports/2022-04-01-the-shock-of-134-500-covid-orphans-in-south-africa/>)
- **Africa - The Contribution of Supportive Relationships to Care-leaving Outcomes: A Longitudinal Resilience Study in South Africa**  
This study shows the importance of the relational capacity of young people, such as empathy and teamwork by proposing a triangle of support, involving the relational capacity of young people, the availability of supportive others and the role of formal social services. <https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/13575279.2022.2037516>
- **East Africa - Child Marriage on the Rise in Horn of Africa as Drought Crisis Intensifies - UNICEF**  
Nairobi — Girls as young as twelve are being forced into child marriage and Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) at “alarming rates” in the Horn of Africa, as the most severe drought in forty years pushes families to the edge – warns UNICEF. “We are seeing alarming rates of child marriage and FGM across the Horn of Africa – with some destitute families arranging to marry off girls as young as twelve to men more than five times their age,” says Andy Brooks, UNICEF’s Regional Child Protection Advisor for Eastern and Southern Africa. (*East Africa: Child Marriage on the Rise in the Horn of Africa as Drought Crisis Intensifies - UNICEF*. <https://allafrica.com/stories/202207060375.html>)
- **US -Foster care is evolving by relying on children’s kin**  
For decades, many states barely used the practice, called “kinship care.” Most of the country’s 424,000 foster children live with adults with whom they share no family ties. Now several states are finding ways to pair children with family or friends, emboldened by research that shows foster kids fare better with people with whom they already have a bond. The state does a background check and reviews the homes of kinship applicants. “Kinship caregivers then go through a series of training and are expected to become licensed caregivers,” said Ken Mysogland, bureau chief of external affairs for Connecticut’s Department of Children and Families. (*Foster care is evolving by relying on children’s kin*. <https://www.newsnationnow.com/us-news/foster-care-evolving-through-kinship/>)
- **Norway - Strengthening supportive networks for care leavers: A scoping review of social support interventions in child welfare services**  
This scoping review suggests that few studies have been conducted on social support interventions for care leavers carried out by child welfare services and their method of evaluation differs. It also provides examples of hopeful interventions but suggests that there is a need for more research

on social support interventions within a child welfare context. <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0190740922001384>

- **UK - Care Leavers' Transitions To Adulthood In The Context Of Covid-19: Understanding pathways, experiences and outcomes to improve policy and practice**

This study explored how COVID-19 impacted on care leavers' lives and their pathways out of care; examining where young people went, what services and support they received, and how young people got on. [https://bettercarenetwork.org/sites/default/files/2022-06/2328-cctc-full-report-final.pdf?utm\\_source=BenchmarkEmail&utm\\_campaign=May\\_ICB\\_NL&utm\\_medium=email](https://bettercarenetwork.org/sites/default/files/2022-06/2328-cctc-full-report-final.pdf?utm_source=BenchmarkEmail&utm_campaign=May_ICB_NL&utm_medium=email)

- **Day of General Discussion : Outcome report**

Committee on the Rights of the Child 2021 Day of General Discussion Children's Rights and Alternative Care Outcome Report - On the basis of the discussions at the day of general discussion, the Committee on the Rights of the Child endorses certain recommendations, with the aim of providing guidance to States parties and other relevant stakeholders to protect children's rights in relation to alternative care. [https://bettercarenetwork.org/sites/default/files/2022-06/13jun2022-dgd-outcome-report-and-recommendations.pdf?utm\\_source=BenchmarkEmail&utm\\_campaign=May\\_ICB\\_NL&utm\\_medium=email](https://bettercarenetwork.org/sites/default/files/2022-06/13jun2022-dgd-outcome-report-and-recommendations.pdf?utm_source=BenchmarkEmail&utm_campaign=May_ICB_NL&utm_medium=email)

---

## Upcoming Events

Institutionalised Children Explorations  
and Beyond

9(2) 255–257, 2022

© 2022 Udayan Care and SAGE

Publications India Pvt Ltd

Reprints and permissions:

[in.sagepub.com/journals-permissions-india](http://in.sagepub.com/journals-permissions-india)

DOI: 10.1177/23493003221120110

[journals.sagepub.com/home/icb](http://journals.sagepub.com/home/icb)



### **International & National Foster Care Conference 2022**

**Website:** <https://www.darwinifco2022.com/program>

**Organizer:** International Foster Care Organization

**Date of Event:** 22–25 September 2022

**Location:** Darwin Convention Centre

The IFCO 2022 programme will comprise three unique streams for children, youth, and adults. A mix of speakers and presenters from across the globe will address key topical issues within the foster and kinship care industry. The conference will create a platform for all stakeholders to share and understand their role and responsibilities in supporting children in care and care leavers.

### **Child Safeguarding Focal Point Training**

**Website:** [https://www.keepingchildrensafe.global/focal-point-training/?utm\\_source=social](https://www.keepingchildrensafe.global/focal-point-training/?utm_source=social)

**Organizer:** Keeping Children Safe

**Date of Event:** Ongoing

**Location:** Virtual

These online workshops designed specifically for designated Child Safeguarding Focal Points will help you gain the skills and knowledge to carry out your role.

Over two weeks you will:

- Learn about the International Child Safeguarding Standards and how to implement them
- Identify child safeguarding best practices, tools, and resources across a range of functions including communications, recruitment, HR, and programmes
- Understand how to:
  - develop a child safeguarding training plan for staff and partners
  - ensure that concerns are reported using appropriate systems
  - evaluate risk management strategies and provide recommendations when appropriate in operations, programme design, and other activities

- identify key audiences and channels, and develop an effective child safeguarding communication planning
- communicate effectively with beneficiaries and manage sensitive information
- develop and effectively incorporate monitoring and evaluation activities, and present critical information for senior management.

### **Kempe Conference—International Virtual Conference: A Call to Action to Change Child Welfare**

**Website:** <https://web.cvent.com/event/84268e06-0e52-4713-8d52-42b9c117d5b0/summary>

**Organizer:** The Kempe Center, Department of Pediatrics, University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus

**Date of Event:** 3–6 October 2022

**Location:** Virtual

The Kempe Center is hosting the second annual virtual conference, A Call to Action to Change Child Welfare. This year's contributors will include children and young people, family members, leading practitioners, advocates, academics, and managers from all over the globe. It will witness 64 hours of concurrent learning opportunities over 4 days (running 6 am–10 pm Denver time daily), 8 keynoters, including renowned experts, international thought leaders, panels of children and family members and 25 International Exchanges and Discussion Halls on a range of provocative topics,

### **35th Lawasia Annual Conference, Sydney, Australia**

**Website:** <https://lawasia.asn.au/35th-lawasia-conference>

**Organizer:** Lawasia

**Date of Event:** 18–21 November 2022

**Location:** Sydney, Australia

The Conference is a platform for the convergence of bar leaders, jurists, professional organisations and individual lawyers from across the Asia Pacific, and is designed to facilitate the discussion of regional developments in law, including such issues as judicial practice, legal education, cross border business and investment law and cross-border dispute resolution and laws related to child protection.

## **Child Protection and the Rights of the Child: Transnational Perspectives**

**Website:** <https://history.humanities.mcmaster.ca/stories/child-protection-and-the-rights-of-the-child-call-for-papers/>

**Organizer:** MsMaster University

**Date of Event:** 27–29 January 2022

**Location:** Canada

The main objective of this conference is to map global patterns in discourses, politics, policies, and practices in child saving, child protection, and the rights of children. It will explore the ways that changes and (dis)continuities in the relationship and transition from child saving to rights entitlements have been framed and whether these changes indicate linear progress or something far less straightforward or far more limited in scope or applicability. It will also highlight the intersections between local approaches and transnational trends in child welfare, protection, and children's rights, how have shifts in social attitudes, politics, and discourse shaped child welfare policies, and what are the impacts of these changes on the wellbeing of children and, indeed, conceptions of childhood and youth.