

Family Strengthening & Alternative Care

A GLOBAL MONTHLY NEWS WRAP-UP & RESOURCES

This monthly wrap-up is intended to serve as a compendium of the latest developments in the area of family strengthening and alternative care. We hope you will find it useful and be able to use it in your day-to-day work on research, writing, and practice on child and youth care.

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GENERAL ALTERNATIVE CARE NEWS

INTERNATIONAL

- [A Three Year Plan to support care experienced children and young people in Aberdeen City, Scotland](#)
The Aberdeen City Council has approved a three year Corporate Parenting Plan, outlining its commitment to supporting children and young people in care. The plan aims to fulfil the council's obligations under the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014
- [Kinship Carers in Australia in Urgent Need of Support](#)
The article points out the crisis situation of kinship carers in Victoria and Western Australia. It emphasizes the financial strain faced by the caregivers due to the increased number of children in out-of-home care. The article calls for increased financial support, improved allowances, and better recognition of the crucial role played by carers in the child protection system.

ASIA

- [Kazakhstan to Introduce Foster Families as Alternative to Institutional Child Care](#)
Kazakhstan is drafting a law to introduce professional foster families as an alternative to institutional child care. The New law aims to place orphans and children without parental care directly into foster families, bypassing orphanages.
- [Lives of Children in Care in Nepal](#)
The article highlights the dire situations of children living in children's homes in Nepal where they often face exploitation, forced labour, and even trafficking. The government is urged to address the root causes that drive children into these homes by creating opportunities for parents to support their children independently.
- [Sri Lankan Government to set up a New 'Social Intelligence Unit' to Safeguard Children](#)
State Minister of Defence Sri Lanka announced plans to establish a dedicated Social Intelligence Unit in collaboration with schools aimed at safeguarding children and young individuals in the country.

INDIA

- [Andhra Pradesh: Over 14,000 Children Staying in Child Care Homes, Many of Them Even After Crossing 18 Years](#)
More than 14,000 children are currently residing in child care homes in Andhra Pradesh, with many of them continuing to live in the homes after crossing 18 years of age. The article highlights the need for better monitoring and support for children in these homes to ensure that they receive adequate care and support as they transition to adulthood.
- [Chandigarh to Simplify Child Adoption Rules](#)
The Chandigarh administration has notified Chandigarh Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection) Amendment Rules, 2023. This recent amendment simplified and strengthened the procedure of child adoption by vesting the powers in District Magistrate (DM) for issuing orders in case of in-country/inter-country/relative/stepparent adoption to ensure speedy disposal of cases



NEW RESOURCES IN THE ALTERNATIVE CARE SPACE

PUBLICATIONS

- [Scottish Journal of Residential Child Care \(SJRCC\), Vol 22, No. 1](#)
The spring 2023 Issue of SJRCC focuses on enforced migration and supporting refugees in Scotland. The journal also includes peer-reviewed research papers on foster care and caregivers.
STUDY:
- [Long-Term Benefits of Family-Based Care Following Institutional Care](#)
New research, published in the *American Journal of Psychiatry*, provides the most robust and comprehensive evidence to date that children exposed to early psychosocial deprivation benefit substantially from family-based care.
- [“If Not Now, Then When?”](#)
An inquiry to scrutinise the Welsh Government’s progress in delivering its Programme for Government Commitment to ‘explore radical reform of current services for children looked after and care leavers’
- [Fostering Youth Transitions 2023: State and National Data to Drive Foster Care Advocacy](#)
This overview brief and detailed profiles of the latest available data from all 50 states, along with the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico. This unique compilation of data is designed to inform federal and state policy efforts aimed at making a difference for young people in foster care.

POLICY BRIEFS

- [Children in Alternative Care in the Child Guarantee National Action Plan](#)
A summative analysis of findings and recommendations from the ‘DataCare’ Project to map Alternative Care data and data systems across the 27 member states of the European Union and the United Kingdom

TOOLKITS

- [Create a stronger family with the Family Toolkit](#)
A toolkit consists of practical resources to strengthen family bonds and home life



YOUNG VOICES THAT APPEAR IN MEDIA

- [Leaving Care: Becoming Independent Overnight](#)
The care leaver’s podcast explores the realities of leaving care and the challenges of becoming independent overnight. It delves into the shortcomings of the support system and the need for a more holistic approach to support these individuals
- [“Kids”: A Documentary on the Experience of Young Care Leavers](#)
The experiences of young people in care are the subject of a new documentary on Channel 4. The documentary captures the lives of six young care leavers in Coventry, England



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

- [Virtual Workshop on ‘Exploring Cultural Connection: Supporting First Nations Children and Young People in Out-of-Home Care on 2nd August 2023](#)
- [CYC-Net Webinar on ‘What We Didn’t Know Then: Contemporary Neuroscience and What Really Matters for Children in Care’ on 14th June 2023](#)
- [5th BICON Conference on Alternative Care for Children in Asia on September 6th and 7th 2023](#)

THANK YOU FOR READING!

Write to us at icbjournal@udayancare.org for suggestions, feedback or content to be included.