

Family Strengthening & Alternative Care

A GLOBAL MONTHLY
NEWS WRAP-UP & RESOURCES

Issue No: 45, Published on 30th April- 2025, by Udayan Care

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

- [Punjab grants child care leave to single fathers](#)
 The article discusses the Punjab government's recent decision to extend child care leave (CCL) benefits to single male government employees, including widowers, divorced, and unmarried fathers. Additionally, the policy now allows parents of children with 40% or more disabilities to avail CCL beyond the previous age limit of 18 years, providing greater flexibility and support to diverse family structures.
- [India records world's highest number of adoptions: Over 4,500 children adopted](#)
 India recorded the highest number of child adoptions globally in FY 2024–25, with 4,515 cases, driven by new adoption centres, digital reforms, awareness campaigns, and Supreme Court-directed initiatives. These efforts streamlined the process, making legal adoption faster and more accessible for families.
- [SOS Children's Villages India signs MoU with Govt of Tamil Nadu to strengthen foster care for vulnerable children](#)
 SOS Children's Villages India has partnered with the Government of Tamil Nadu to implement a Foster Care Program, offering non-institutional, family-based care for children in need. The initiative will begin in six districts, focusing on holistic child development and caregiver support.
- [Overcrowded and affected by substance abuse: Issues ailing Delhi's juvenile care institutions](#)
 The article examines overcrowding and systemic challenges in Delhi's juvenile care institutions, including Observation Homes and Places of Safety. It highlights the urgent need for better infrastructure and deeper reform measures to ensure meaningful rehabilitation of children in conflict with the law.
- [4 kids rescued from illegally-run orphanage](#)
 Four children were rescued from an unregistered orphanage in Kendrapada, Odisha, during a joint operation by District Child Protection Officer and police and district officials. The facility was found violating child protection norms and lacked basic infrastructure and not renewing the registration.

ASIA

- [How young advocates are preventing child marriage and early pregnancy in Nepal](#)
The article highlights the importance of investing in adolescent sexual and reproductive health to reduce child marriage and adolescent pregnancy, featuring young leader Darshana Rijal's efforts in Nepal. WHO is launching updated guidelines promoting youth engagement in addressing adolescent health needs globally.
- [The Non-life Insurance Association partners with Seoul family court and social worker groups to support children and teens](#)
The Non-life Insurance Association announced a partnership with the Seoul Family Court, the Korea Social Workers' Association to support children under legal guardianship due to abuse or neglect. A KRW20m donation will fund essential items like clothing, shoes, and educational materials for these children.
- [Free medical camp for orphans' children held](#)
The free medical camp organized by Talib Clinic and the Zakat Foundation of America helped over 100 orphan children in Sillanwali receive early diagnosis and health education, aiming to improve their well-being and enable them to pursue education with greater confidence.

INTERNATIONAL

- [Bringing more care leavers into the NHS workforce](#)
The NHS Universal Family Programme is helping care leavers across England build careers through work experience, training, and apprenticeships in healthcare and related fields. The initiative has supported nearly 200 young people so far, empowering them to step onto the NHS career ladder.
- [Licensing reforms benefit children and families in kinship care](#)
Sixteen U.S. states and tribes have revised foster care licensing rules to better support kinship caregivers, making it easier for them to access financial aid and services. Maryland, among the leaders, has expanded its kinship care approach statewide to prioritize permanent, supportive relationships for children.
- [From an orphanage in Sierra Leone to family-care: Emmanuel Nabs calls on Christians to rethink care for vulnerable children](#)
The article highlights Emmanuel "Nabs" Nabieu's advocacy for transitioning from orphanage-based care to family-based support, emphasizing that vulnerable children thrive best within their own families when provided with proper assistance. It showcases how strengthening families leads to more sustainable, loving, and empowering outcomes for children and communities.
- [Unsung Heroes: Caring for kids who aren't their own](#)
Washington State is seeing fewer children in foster care due to a policy shift prioritizing family preservation and kinship care, supported by nonprofits and new laws like the Keeping Families Together Act. Children placed with relatives show better stability and outcomes compared to those in traditional foster care.
- [£25m boost to foster care support and recruitment from 2026-28](#)
The article discusses the UK government's £25 million investment from 2026-28 to recruit 400 new foster families and improve support for foster carers. It also highlights plans to reform delegated authority rules and calls for a stronger focus on retaining experienced carers.



NEW RESOURCES IN THE ALTERNATIVE CARE SPACE

PUBLICATIONS

- [Young People's Experiences of Transitioning Out of Care in India: Convergence of Two Frameworks](#)
This new study published in the journal *Institutionalised Children Explorations and Beyond*, Vol 12 Issue 1, examines the challenges faced by care leavers in India due to inadequate aftercare support and emphasizes the need for structured transition planning, using the 'Sphere of Aftercare' and 'Resilience Framework' to recommend policy and practice reforms.
- [Highlights From Evaluating an Intergenerational Community That Supports Children Formerly in Foster Care](#)
This publication highlights how Bridge Meadows creates intergenerational communities to support youth formerly in foster care by fostering strong relationships among children, parents, and elders. The evaluation study was conducted by *Child Trends* and published by the *Grandfamilies & Kinship Support Network: A National Technical Assistance Center*.
- [The Role of OSCE Participating States in Combatting Orphanage Trafficking](#)
This publication published by *Organization for Security and Co-operation*, provides an overview of orphanage trafficking and examines how OSCE participating States can contribute towards global efforts to combat orphanage trafficking and orphanage voluntourism.
- [Looking past the stereotypes- Disabled people as foster carers](#)
The study published in the journal *Adoption & Fostering*, Vol 49, Issue 1, examines why Disabled people are underrepresented as foster carers in England, despite having valuable skills, and highlights the need for non-discriminatory practices and better disability awareness in fostering organisations. It calls for institutional changes, staff training, and promoting Disabled foster carers.

STUDIES

- [Roots and routes: navigating family identities and relationships in non-kinship care](#)
The study explores how various stakeholders in non-kinship foster care, foster children, foster parents, their children, biological parents, and care workers—perceive and navigate family relationships and tensions. It highlights the need for more inclusive foster care policies that consider all stakeholders' voices.
- [“You are nothing and you have nothing”: Exploring social justice for youth leaving care in African contexts](#)
The study examines how youth leaving care in African countries face intersectional social injustices that marginalize and stigmatize them during their transition to adulthood. It advocates for a social justice approach to aftercare support, emphasizing resource redistribution, recognition of identities, and care-leaver participation.
- [Dynamics of family violence in mandatory and voluntary child protection support systems: A longitudinal within-family design](#)
The study investigates how family violence, parental stress, and child post-traumatic stress symptoms evolve within families involved with Dutch child protection services, finding little longitudinal connection between these factors. It highlights the complexity of intra-familial processes and the need for customized support, with similar patterns across mandatory and voluntary CPS cases.

- [Barriers to the educational progress of care leavers: The neglected role of stigma?](#)

The study explores how stigma acts as a barrier to the educational progress of care leavers across Austria, Ireland, and Switzerland, and how care leavers develop strategies to cope with and counteract this stigma. It emphasizes the need for theoretical, policy, and practice reforms to address these challenges.

TOOLKITS

- [Social Investigation Report \(SIR\) video series for Children in Need of Care and Protection: basics and beyond](#)

This video series developed by *Enfold Proactive Health Trust* with support from *BOSCH CSR - BGSW*, offers practical guidance on preparing effective, child-centered SIRs. Through case studies and field perspectives, it explores the purpose, process, principles, and real-world challenges of preparing an SIR to support informed decision-making by CWCs.

- [Guidelines and Training Manual on Protection of Child Victims and Witnesses](#)

The Guidelines and Training Manual for the Protection of Child Victims and Witnesses were developed and published by the Office of the Attorney General (OAG) of Bhutan with UNICEF's support. They provide practical guidance to ensure dignity, respect, and fairness for child victims and witnesses of crime, aligning with national laws and international child rights standards.

POLICY BRIEF

- [Child Priority Framework: Advancing Global Child Well-being](#)

The Paris Peace Forum's Child Priority Framework aims to prioritize child health, education, and nutrition in global development, advocating for strategic investments despite economic constraints. It seeks to mobilize a global coalition, shape policies, and secure financial commitments to enhance child well-being.



YOUNG VOICES THAT APPEAR IN THE MEDIA

- [A journey of self-discovery, challenges and transformation](#) The article shares a personal journey of *Arun*, a Care Leaver from India taking a risk by joining the LIFT (Learning In Fellowship Together) a fellowship for Care Leavers initiative of Udayan Care, leading to growth, purpose, and finding a supportive community among care-experienced youth. It highlights how stepping out of one's comfort zone can unlock hidden potential and lifelong connections.
- [My LIFT Fellowship Journey](#) The blog shares Lakshay's inspiring journey from uncertainty to empowerment through the LIFT fellowship, highlighting his work supporting care leavers with essential documents, skills, and opportunities. It reflects his personal growth, professional development, and commitment to giving back to the community.
- [We can't fix foster care without funding and we can't pretend otherwise](#) The article by *Tim Patrick from West Virginia* argues that chronic underfunding is the root cause of failures in West Virginia's foster care system, warning that proposed budget cuts will worsen trauma for vulnerable children. It calls for real reform through both accountability and proper financial support.
- [Hear me out: Foster youth deserve to be heard, seen and supported](#) The article shares *Destiny Jackson from Georgia's* journey of invisibility and hardship to resilience and advocacy, highlighting systemic failures in foster care, homelessness, education, and the urgent need for youth-led reforms. It calls for amplifying foster youth voices, expanding transitional support, and building lasting networks of care.



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

- [Fifth Biennial International Childhood Trauma Conference | 17– 22 August 2025](#)
- [International Conference on Women, Gender, and Leadership: Redefining the Power Paradigm | 25-26, September 2025](#)
- [6th BICON Conference on Alternative Care for Children in Asia | 15 - 16, October, 2025](#)
- [Online Curriculum: Children on the Move Training for Social Workers and Para Social Workers](#)

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.