

# 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

- [From Shelter to Self-Reliance: How CSA is Strengthening Aftercare for India's Vulnerable Youth](#)  
The article highlights how Catalysts for Social Action (CSA) is transforming aftercare for over 2,500 care leavers in India through career guidance, upskilling, and employment support. It also explores The Ahvaan conference emphasized collaboration, data-driven policies, and systemic change, with plans to expand aftercare programs to Chhattisgarh and support CNCP youth under sponsorship schemes.
- ['Adopted Son' Replaced With 'Adopted Child' as Chhattisgarh Ends Gender Bias](#)  
Chhattisgarh has amended the 1908 Adoption Act, replacing "adopted son" with "adopted child" to ensure gender neutrality in legal documents. This progressive move aligns adoption laws with gender-equal rights and is seen as a tribute to women leaders who have shaped the state's social landscape.
- [India's shift from institutional to family-based childcare gaining force despite challenges](#)  
The article discusses India's transition from institutional childcare to family-based solutions, highlighting initiatives like UNICEF's 'Kinship and Community-Based Care Programme' and the government's Mission Vatsalya, which have significantly increased non-institutional care placements. Despite this progress, challenges such as financial constraints and the need for comprehensive support systems persist in ensuring the well-being of children in family-based care.
- [Explained: How Single Father Adoption Works in India](#)  
The article outlines the legal framework, eligibility criteria, and procedural steps for single men adopting children in India, emphasizing the specific regulations designed to ensure the child's welfare. It also discusses the challenges single fathers may face during the adoption process.
- [New study based on court data differs from NCRB, more child labour cases in six states](#)  
The article reveals that child labour cases in six Indian states are nearly eight times higher than recorded by the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB), based on judicial data from the e-Courts platform. The study highlights discrepancies in crime data reporting and the importance of data for improving the justice delivery system.

## ASIA

- [EBM partners with SOS Children's Village to launch family strengthening program in Pakistan](#)  
The article highlights the partnership between English Biscuit Manufacturers (EBM) and SOS Children's Villages Pakistan to launch a Family Strengthening Program for single mothers, supporting their children's welfare while empowering women. EBM's commitment to social impact is reflected in its initiatives focused on women's empowerment and financial inclusion.
- [Breaking barriers in STEM for girls in Nepal with Street Child](#)  
Liberty Global has partnered with Street Child to launch the Naveenta initiative, providing marginalized girls in Nepal with STEM education and training to bridge the gender and digital divide. The project aims to empower up to 500 girls through coding camps, robotics courses, and mentorship, fostering future opportunities in a digital society.
- [Connection over control](#)  
Through parenting education training, a teacher in Kathmandu learns to appreciate the power of listening and building a supportive environment to help children thrive
- [A journey of empowerment: My mission for children's rights and girls' dreams](#)  
The article highlights the efforts of a youth advocate in Bangladesh to combat child marriage, promote education for girls, and break the stigma surrounding menstrual health. Her initiatives have successfully empowered girls in marginalized communities, helping them access education and build brighter futures.
- [UNICEF hails Thailand's ban on corporal punishment for kids](#)  
UNICEF Thailand welcomes the new law banning all forms of corporal punishment, calling it a major step in protecting children's rights and promoting positive parenting.

## INTERNATIONAL

- [Understanding older care leavers' perceptions and experiences of aged care services](#)  
The article discusses a review on the challenges faced by older care leavers transitioning into the aged care system, highlighting their preference for home-based care and the need for trauma-informed approaches in aged care services. It emphasizes the importance of addressing the unique needs of this vulnerable group to ensure their wellbeing and dignity.
- [Everyday Hero: After retirement, Hmong leader continues advocacy work in Family Strengthening](#)  
The article highlights Mai Zong Vue's continued advocacy for the Hmong community after her retirement, including her creation of the "Refugee Family Strengthening" program to address domestic abuse through family-focused strategies. By working with children and strengthening families, the program aims to tackle the root issues of domestic abuse indirectly, rather than labelling it directly as a domestic abuse initiative.
- [Free bus travel for care leavers could be introduced](#)  
The article discusses proposals by the Tees Valley Combined Authority to provide free travel for care leavers under 25, alongside an extension of the £1 bus fare scheme for young people to support care leavers in accessing employment and training opportunities while addressing financial and social challenges.
- [Kentucky advocates rally for kids, urge action on vaping, kinship care](#)  
The article covers Children's Advocacy Day at Kentucky's Capitol, where advocates and lawmakers pushed for youth vaping protections, kinship care funding, and policies to improve children's well-being. It highlights bipartisan efforts and Governor Beshear's call for universal pre-K and better teacher salaries.



## NEW RESOURCES IN THE ALTERNATIVE CARE SPACE

### PUBLICATIONS

- [Institutionalised Children Explorations and Beyond \(ICB\), March 2025, Volume 12 Issue 1](#)  
Institutionalised Children Explorations and Beyond (ICB) published *Udayan Care* and *Sage Publications*, explores social, cultural, and familial aspects of child care, social adaptation strategies in institutions, AI's role in mental health, and young people's experiences transitioning out of care in India. It features contributions from experts analysing effective practices and policy implications.
- ['Raised by Relatives: The experiences of Black and Asian kinship carers'](#)  
The 'Raised by Relatives' report by the *Kinship and the Rees Centre at Oxford* highlights the unique challenges Black and Asian kinship carers face, including systemic racism, cultural stigma, and lack of tailored support. It calls for improved financial aid, culturally competent services, and targeted peer support to better assist these families.
- [Valuing Kinship Care in England](#)  
The report published by *The Kinship Care Charity*, highlights that kinship carers in England contribute £4.3 billion annually to society but often receive little to no financial support from the government. It calls for equalized support between kinship and foster care families to ensure financial stability and better outcomes for children in kinship care.
- [Looking past the stereotypes – Disabled people as foster carers](#)  
The new study published by *Adoption & Fostering, Volume 49 Issue 1*, examines the barriers preventing Disabled people from becoming foster carers in England, highlighting discrimination in recruitment and the need for systemic changes. It recommends staff training, reasonable adjustments in assessment, and promoting Disabled foster carers.

### STUDIES

- [Decision-making and goal setting among young people in residential care: Relationships with caregivers and the role of resilience](#)  
The study examines how the quality of relationships with caregivers in Residential Care (RC) influences decision-making and goal-setting in young people, with resilience playing a mediating role. It highlights the importance of supportive, nurturing relationships for emotional reorganization and future trajectory development.

- [The intergenerational effects of intimate partner violence on child development](#)  
The study examines the intergenerational effects of intimate partner violence (IPV) on child development in Vietnam, focusing on its impact on children's internalizing and externalizing behaviours. It highlights IPV as a significant risk factor for negative child development, particularly in rural and low-income households.
- [Mental Wellbeing Needs and Support for Care-Experienced Children and Young People in Secondary School and During the Transition to Further Education College](#)  
The study explores mental wellbeing support for care-experienced children in secondary schools and Further Education (FE) colleges in Wales, focusing on transition challenges and gaps in care. It highlights barriers like stigma and staff capacity while recommending relationship-based support and cross-sector collaboration.
- [Balancing child participation and protection in emergency cases: Ensuring the child's best interests](#)  
The study examines how Norwegian Child Welfare Services Professionals (NCWSPs) balance child protection and participation rights in emergency cases. It advocates for a deliberative, team-based approach to enhance decision-making legitimacy and ensure children's best interests.

## 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 film by young people in kinship care | Kinship Young Champions film project](#)  
The film, created by young people in kinship care, shares their personal experiences and emotions, aiming to raise awareness and support for children in similar situations. It calls for government action to improve support for kinship families and reduce isolation.
- [Pageant finalist to highlight care system issues](#)  
The article highlights Charlotte Levy, a care leaver and Miss Universe Great Britain finalist, who is using her platform to advocate for better support for young people leaving care. She is campaigning for improved housing support and raising awareness about issues within the foster care system.
- [Care leaver shares supported lodgings experience](#)  
The article highlights a 21-year-old care leaver, shares how the Supported Lodgings scheme helped him build independence, complete his education, and pursue a career. He encourages others to consider becoming hosts to provide supportive environments for young people transitioning into adulthood.
- [From Foster to Freshman: The Unseen Struggles of College](#)  
The youth highlight the systemic barriers foster youth face in college, including lack of financial and emotional support, making academic success an uphill battle. They share their personal struggles with inadequate state assistance, emphasizing the need for better resources and support systems.



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

- [Global Disability Summit | 2 – 3 April, 2025 Berlin](#)
- [Fifth Biennial International Childhood Trauma Conference | 17– 22 August 2025](#)
- [6th BICON Conference on Alternative Care for Children in Asia | 15 - 16, October, 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.