

# 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.

Issue No: 31, Published on 31<sup>st</sup> October 2023, by Udayan Care



## GENERAL ALTERNATIVE CARE NEWS

### INTERNATIONAL

- [Press release: 33% increase in homelessness among care leavers](#)  
The article reports a 33% increase in homelessness among care leavers in the UK, underscoring the urgent need for support and solutions for this vulnerable group. It highlights the challenges faced by young people transitioning out of care and their heightened risk of experiencing homelessness.
- [Biden Requests \\$16 Billion for Child Care](#)  
President Biden has requested \$16 billion for child care funding in his budget proposal, aiming to address the child care crisis in the United States. The funding is intended to make child care more affordable and accessible for families, supporting both children and working parents.
- [Federal Court approves \\$23B First Nations child-welfare settlement](#)  
The Federal Court of Canada has approved a \$2.3 billion settlement for First Nations child welfare. This settlement aims to address historical injustices and provide compensation for Indigenous children who were affected by the child welfare system.

### ASIA

- [Greater collaboration needed for recovery of missing children: President](#)  
The President of Pakistan has stressed the need for greater collaboration in the efforts to recover missing children. Emphasizing the importance of this issue, the President called for enhanced coordination among relevant authorities and NGOs to address the challenges related to missing children in Pakistan.
- [How much has Bangladesh done for child protection?](#)  
The article discusses the efforts made by Bangladesh in the field of child protection, including policy initiatives and programs to safeguard children's rights and well-being. It highlights the country's progress in addressing child protection issues, but also points out existing challenges and the need for further improvements in this area.

### INDIA

- [State Must Provide 'Support' Persons' For Child Victims; It Can't Be Left To Parents' Discretion: Supreme Court](#)  
The Supreme Court has ruled that the State is obligated to provide "support persons" for child victims of sexual offenses under the POCSO Act, and this cannot be optional. The National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) has been directed to formulate guidelines, ensuring support persons are properly qualified and receive fair remuneration, and that their information is accessible on a national portal.
- [Childcare Institutions Worse Than Prisons: Allahabad High Court Takes Suo Moto Cognizance Of Deficiencies In Running Of Such Institutions](#)  
The Allahabad High Court has initiated a suo-motu public interest litigation (PIL) to address deficiencies in child care institutions in Uttar Pradesh, focusing on improving conditions and ensuring the well-being of children in these facilities. The court is taking proactive measures to safeguard the rights and welfare of children in the state.
- [First-time release of Benefit for second girl child in PMMVY](#) The news article highlights the National Event on Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana (PMMVY) in Mumbai, focusing on the revision of the PMMVY scheme (PMMVY 2.0) emphasizing the incentives for the birth of girl children, offering financial support to mothers and promoting the improvement of the Sex Ratio at Birth.
- [State approves 'Lek Ladki' scheme for girl child welfare](#) The state of Maharashtra in India has approved the "Lek Ladki" scheme, aimed at promoting the welfare of girl children. The scheme includes financial support and incentives to ensure the well-being and education of girls in the state.



## NEW RESOURCES IN THE ALTERNATIVE CARE SPACE

### PUBLICATIONS

- [We can connect: Imagining the future of digital practice with and by care-experienced children and young people](#)  
This new article published in the journal *Adoption & Fostering* Volume 47 Issue no 3, explores digital adaption involving care-experienced children and young people, aiming to identify issues in social work with children and recommend service improvements.
- [ART Expressions, Udayan Care A.R.T Department](#)  
The 2<sup>nd</sup> issue, Volume 1 of A.R.T Department newsletter “Expression” encapsulates a comprehensive range of content, including partnerships, impact stories, events, advocacy, research and publications, bi-annual program highlights, staff perspectives, testimonials, and valuable resources, offering a holistic view of our organization's work and achievements.

### STUDIES

- [Pakistani children's lived experiences of relationships in the context of child protection services in Norway: An interpretative phenomenological analysis](#)  
The research study explores how children from Pakistani immigrant backgrounds in Norway navigate power dynamics within their families and with social workers in the context of child protection services (CPS). It emphasizes the need to understand how these children negotiate generational and gender-based power relations to assert their agency, addressing a gap in research that often overlooks the voices of immigrant children in CPS settings.
- [Mental health and wellbeing interventions for care-experienced children and young people: Systematic review and synthesis of process evaluations](#)  
This study focuses on the mental health and well-being of care-experienced children and young people exploring how contextual factors within social and health care systems influence the implementation and acceptability of mental health interventions for this group.

### POLICY BRIEF

- [India - Children and Registration of Births and Deaths \(Amendment\) Act, 2023](#)  
The article discusses amendments to the Registration of Births and Deaths Act in India, which was recently amended on 11th August, 2023 and now effective from 1-10-2023.

### TOOLKIT

- [Guidelines on Communicating with Children and Young People - Recommendations from Care Experienced Persons in Care](#)  
These guidelines aim to help practitioners effectively communicate the intent to transition and its implications to children and young people in care, with a focus on ensuring their understanding and participation in decision-making.



## YOUNG VOICES THAT APPEAR IN THE MEDIA

- [Teens, young adults share personal stories of growing up in Utah's foster care system](#)  
The 1999 Collective NGO, hosted a couch conversation in St. George, Utah, where foster care alumni shared their stories. The foster youths discussed their journeys, successes, and struggles in foster care, with the goal of fostering understanding and compassion in the broader community.
- [Mental Health After Foster Care](#)  
The author shares their personal experience of growing up in foster care, discussing the challenges and trauma faced during their time in the system highlighting the importance of mental health support for current and former foster youth and call on Congress to prioritize funding and initiatives for mental health care within the child welfare system.
- [Reflecting on Foster Care Week 2023](#) The opinion piece discusses Foster Care Week and acknowledges the dedication of volunteer foster carers who provide love and support to children in out-of-home care. The article also reflects on their own recognition for supporting exceptional foster carers and emphasizes the significance of celebrating wins and acknowledging the valuable contributions made to the lives of children in care.
- [Working with Care Experienced Leaders](#)  
The article highlights how Udayan Care in India, a partner of Martin James Foundation is actively involving young individuals with lived experiences of care in various roles, emphasizing their role in shaping programs and support for children and families. These care-experienced youths share their personal journeys and the significance of their work in the social care sector.



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

- [Webinar on Getting to Self Sufficiency: Helping Foster Youth Thrive as Young Adults- 9th November, 2023](#)
- [Online course on Monitoring Evaluation and Learning, 17<sup>th</sup> January- 6<sup>th</sup> March 2024](#)
- [62nd Session Of The Commission For Social Development - CSocD62, 5<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup> February, 2024](#)

THANK YOU FOR READING!

Write to us at [icbjournal@udayancare.org](mailto:icbjournal@udayancare.org) for suggestions, feedback or content to be included.