

# 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: 30, Published on 30<sup>th</sup> September 2023, by Udayan Care



## GENERAL ALTERNATIVE CARE NEWS

### INTERNATIONAL

- [Lagos First Lady lauds orphanages' protection of vulnerable children](#)  
Lagos First Lady, Mrs. Ibijoke Sanwo-Olu, commended the Association of Orphanages and Home Operators of Nigeria (ASOHON) for their dedication to protecting vulnerable children, highlighting the significance of strengthening family bonds and unity as a foundation for love, trust, and understanding, emphasizing that family-based care is crucial for children's development.
- [Child welfare experts create recommendations to improve foster care in Arkansas](#)  
Child welfare experts have formulated recommendations to enhance foster care in Arkansas, aiming to improve the state's child welfare system. The proposed changes focus on enhancing support for foster parents, increasing training and resources, and streamlining the licensing process to ensure the well-being of children in foster care.
- [New national allowance for foster and kinship carers introduced](#)  
The Scottish Government has introduced a new national allowance for foster and kinship carers to provide financial support for those caring for vulnerable children. This allowance aims to improve the overall support system for these caregivers, recognizing their vital role in providing stable homes for children in need.

### ASIA

- [Sri Lanka's Inland revenue to give tax concessions to institutions for disabled children](#)  
Sri Lanka's Inland Revenue Department plans to grant tax concessions to institutions supporting disabled children. This initiative aims to provide financial relief to organizations dedicated to the well-being and development of disabled children, fostering a more inclusive and supportive environment.
- [Malaysian children need an independent children's commission](#)  
The news article discusses the need for an independent children's commission in Malaysia to address the welfare and rights of children. It emphasizes the importance of such a commission in safeguarding and advocating for the well-being of Malaysian children.
- [5th BICON conference highlights Asia advocacy on alternative care and aftercare for children in Kathmandu, Nepal](#)  
The conference brought together over 400 delegates to discuss challenges, best practices, and emerging trends in care reform and children's rights in Asia, covering topics such as foster care, kinship care, well-being, mental health, and the importance of data and evidence in achieving care reforms.

### INDIA

- [Close to 4.46 lakh missing children found since 2015, most reunited with families](#)  
In this news article, Smriti Irani have highlighted that most of the 446,000 missing children in India have reunited with their families through the Government's Mission Vatsalya and further warned against profiteering from institutionalizing children and emphasized the importance of providing loving homes.
- [New regulations boost adoption by relatives](#)  
The news article highlights that new regulations implemented last year from Central Adoption Resource Authority in India have enhanced the adoption of children by relatives streamlining the adoption process within families, potentially providing better care and support for vulnerable children.
- [Two-day National Annual Stakeholders Consultation on Child Protection held at Supreme Court](#)  
The news article covers a two-day national annual stakeholders' consultation on child protection organized by the Supreme Court of India serving as a platform for discussions and collaborations to strengthen the justice delivery system for children in conflict with the law, as well as to devise the best possible way forward related to child protection initiatives in India.



## NEW RESOURCES IN THE ALTERNATIVE CARE SPACE

### PUBLICATIONS

- [Special Issue: The Evolution of Alternative Care in South Asia over the Last Decade and Way Forward](#)  
The 2<sup>nd</sup> Issue, Volume 10 of Institutionalised Children Explorations and Beyond (ICB) journal gives a real, raw, and compelling view of UN defined Alternative Care in Bangladesh, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Bhutan. It is freely accessible for one month.
- [India Alternative Care Network \(IACN\) Quarterly Newsletter](#)  
The 13<sup>th</sup> Issue of IACN newsletter captures the approaches, frameworks, processes, and tools employed in transitioning away from institutional care for children.
- [Investing in Family Care for Moldova's Future](#)  
The report published by "Changing The Way We Care" NGO presents the case for investing in a more child-centered social welfare system in Moldova and provides specific estimates on the resources needed including an estimate of the resources required to fund the spectrum of programs and services.

### STUDIES

- [Bayesian analysis of the factors explaining the disruptive behaviour of care leavers: a retrospective document analysis](#)  
This study investigates disruptive behaviour among Finnish care leavers who have received aftercare services for approximately two years highlighting that risky behaviours, especially substance abuse, are prevalent among these individuals, which can negatively impact their transition to adulthood. It also identifies factors associated with less disruptive behaviour, such as completing education and utilizing employment services, emphasizing the importance of tailored support and collaboration among stakeholders to address these issues effectively.
- [Youth in Transition: Exploring a life course perspective on leaving Care in Africa](#)  
This study explores care leaving from a life course perspective, particularly focusing on youth leaving care in four African countries. It emphasizes the importance of concepts like biography, linked lives, waithood, and agency in understanding the experiences of care leavers, and discusses implications for policy and practice, including addressing systemic barriers and promoting interdependence and cultural transition planning.

### POLICY BRIEFS

- [Care Experience, Ethnicity and Youth Justice Involvement: Key Trends and Policy Implications](#)  
This policy briefing discusses the overrepresentation of care-experienced children, especially racial minorities, in the criminal justice system and calls for urgent policy measures to prevent unnecessary criminalization and address systemic failures.

### TOOLKITS

- [First Nations care leavers: Supporting better transitions](#)  
The practice guide focuses on supporting better transitions for First Nations care leavers in Australia. It provides guidance and recommendations for improving the transition experiences of Indigenous individuals leaving the child welfare system, emphasizing culturally sensitive and holistic approaches to support their well-being and success in adulthood.
- [Trauma-informed schools: the essential role of families](#)  
This new practice guide aims to help schools, teachers and other education practitioners to embed a culture of trauma-informed practice when working with families, parents and carers.
- [Recommendations to improve the foster care system in Arkansas](#)  
A diverse group of more than 130 individuals from different sectors came together to create 11 recommendations aimed at enhancing current programs and services, all while establishing a structured plan for their implementation.



## YOUNG VOICES THAT APPEAR IN THE MEDIA

- [Loss, grief and relational connection for youth in foster care](#)  
This opinion article highlights the profound impact of loss and grief on the relational connections of youth in foster care, emphasizing the urgent need for support and understanding within the foster care system to address these emotional challenges effectively.
- [The Compounded Issues of Native Youth in the Juvenile Justice System](#)  
The article delves into the complex challenges faced by Native American youth within the juvenile justice system. It explores the intersection of historical trauma, cultural disconnection, and systemic bias, emphasizing the urgent need for reform to address these issues and provide more equitable support for Native youth.



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

- [Webinar on Children's voice in the Barnabus- 10<sup>th</sup> October, 2023](#)
- [Child Protection in Travel and Tourism- 12<sup>th</sup> October, 2023](#)
- [Supporting children's wellbeing when working with separating parents- 25<sup>th</sup> October, 2023](#)

THANK YOU FOR READING!

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