



BCN Newsletter: 28 April 2011

## Better Care Network

To the Better Care Network:

### Have You Shared Your Opinions on Common Definitions of Formal Care for Children?

There is still time to share your feedback!

BCN, Save the Children, EveryChild, ISS Geneva, and SOS Kinderdorf International commissioned, independent consultant, Nigel Cantwell (who was largely responsible for drafting the UN Guidelines on the Alternative Care of Children) to develop a working document of "common" definitions for the different forms of formal care mentioned in the UN Guidelines on the Alternative Care of Children. We want to ensure that the wider alternative care community has an opportunity to review and comment on this document; therefore, we would greatly appreciate your comments on the working document of definitions.

This document includes a cover letter explaining in more detail the types of comments that we are looking for and the procedure ahead. Thanks to the great feedback received so far, we extended the deadline. Those interested in contributing can send your comments by May 6th to Richard Ponsford at EveryChild ([Richard.Ponsford@everychild.org.uk](mailto:Richard.Ponsford@everychild.org.uk)), copying Ghazal Keshavarzian ([gkeshavarzian@unicef.org](mailto:gkeshavarzian@unicef.org))

To view the document, visit:

[http://bettercarenetwork.org/BCN/details\\_news.asp?ID=24680&themeID=1001&topicID=1007](http://bettercarenetwork.org/BCN/details_news.asp?ID=24680&themeID=1001&topicID=1007)

Best,

Kathleen Riordan and Ghazal Keshavarzian

Better Care Network Secretariat

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## New Resources

### For-Profit Orphanages Keep Haitian Families Apart

Jennifer Morgan, International Rescue Committee's Family Tracing and Reunification Coordinator in Haiti, reflects on her experiences in the country in the wake of last year's disaster. Morgan finds that some Haitian orphanages are run by well-intentioned people who have the means and ability to properly care for groups of vulnerable children, but many of these facilities are unregulated and routinely disregard basic human rights of children while profiting from the financial contributions of unknowing donors. Morgan proposes alternatives to institutional care that ensure children remain in families wherever safe and possible, while shedding light on some of the greatest

threats posed by institutional care.

[http://www.huffingtonpost.com/jennifer-morgan/forprofit-orphanages-keep\\_b\\_838206.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/jennifer-morgan/forprofit-orphanages-keep_b_838206.html)

### **The Quality of Material Care Provided by Grandparents for their Orphaned Grandchildren in the Context of HIV/AIDS and Poverty: A Study of Kopanong Municipality, Free State**

(Tamasane, T. and Head, J; Sahara Journal; Volume 7, Number 2; August 2010)

A pervasive argument in the literature on AIDS orphans in South Africa is that grandparents, who often care for their orphaned grandchildren, lack the material means to provide adequate care. This study investigated that claim in an area of ubiquitous poverty and very high unemployment. It is based on the analysis of data obtained from two surveys carried out by the HSRC in the semi-rural municipality of Kopanong in the Free State. The first study was a census which targeted the whole population. The second, smaller survey sampled households which accommodated orphaned and vulnerable children. Based on four proxy indicators for material care: possession of birth certificates, uptake of welfare grants, levels of school attendance, and the number of meals consumed daily, the study revealed that there was very little difference in the quality of care provided by grandparents and other carers, including biological parents. It therefore joins the calls of other researchers for greater state support for all poor children, irrespective of whether they are orphans and who their carers are.

To receive the full copy of this journal article, email the BCN Secretariat staff at [contact@bettercarenetwork.org](mailto:contact@bettercarenetwork.org)

### **Journal of Global Social Work Reviews BCN Toolkit for Childcare Practitioners**

In the most recent version of the Journal of Global Social Work, June Thoburn, Emeritus Professor of Social Work, University of East Anglia, reviewed the BCN Toolkit for Social Work Practitioners - a selection of practical guides and manuals to support a quality care system and the delivery of alternative care. This edition of the Journal includes Professor's Thoburn's review including recommendations for application of the toolkit as well as a response from the BCN Secretariat to the important questions raised. The entire review and response from BCN is available here.

<http://www.globalsocialwork.org/vol3no2/BCN.html>

### **Vulnerable Children in the Aftermath of Haiti's Earthquake of 2010: A Call for Sound Policy and Processes to Prevent International Child Sales and Theft, *Journal of Global Social Work Practice*.**

The January 2010 earthquake, leaving at least 200,000 dead and countless children vulnerable and orphaned, poses serious ethical challenges for social workers. In the face of child trafficking allegations being made against a faith-based group from the USA, discourse about child rescue versus abduction remains a challenge. In this piece, intercountry adoption is discussed from a historical and contemporary perspective, including human rights principles and ethical practice considerations in addition to discourse about the "best interests of the child" and relevant international agreements. The authors conclude with a critique of social work as a discipline's response to the situation and make recommendations for Haiti's *self determination* of their citizen-children's alternative care plans.

<http://www.globalsocialwork.org/vol3no1/Rotabi.html>

### **YIPPEE Project: Young People in Public Care, Pathways to Education in Europe.**

The final report of the YIPPEE research project, which constitutes the first comparative study of young people who have been in state care as children and their post-compulsory education, was undertaken by a team of cross-national researchers. The overall aim of the project was to investigate educational pathways after the end of compulsory schooling among young men and women who have been in public care in European countries as children, and to consider how their opportunities to access further and higher education might be improved.

<http://bettercarenetwork.org/BCN/details.asp?id=24819&themeID=1000&topicID=1003>

## **Alternative Care News from around the Globe**

### **The Evangelical Adoption Crusade, The Nation**

Opinion-Editorial from Kathryn Joyce exploring the varying roles the United States Evangelical community plays within the intercountry adoption arena.

<http://www.thenation.com/article/160096/evangelical-adoption-crusade>

**Argentine military dictators on trial over baby kidnappings**, Telegraph UK

Two former Argentine military dictators have gone on trial charged with the kidnapping of babies allegedly seized from political prisoners and opponents minutes after birth.

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/southamerica/argentina/8353177/Argentine-military-dictators-on-trial-over-baby-kidnappings.html>

**Ethiopia to Cut Foreign Adoptions**, Voices of America

Voices of America reports on Ethiopia's recent decision to cut back the percent of inter-country adoptions it will allow by as much as 90 percent, as part of an effort to clean up a system rife with fraud and corruption. Adoption agencies and children's advocates are concerned the cutbacks will leave many Ethiopian orphans without the last-resort option of an adoptive home abroad.

<http://www.voanews.com/english/news/africa/-Ethiopia-to-Cut-Foreign-Adoptions-by-Up-to-90-Percent-117411843.html>

## CALLS FOR PROPOSALS

**CALL OF INTEREST: FOSTER CARE AND ADOPTION POLICY AND IMPLEMENTATION PLAN DESIGN FOR GHANA**

The OVC Steering Committee of the Government of Ghana welcomes proposals from qualified individuals or organizations for the following consulting tasks within the context of the National Plan of Action for OVC and The Hague Convention on the Protection of Children and Co-operation in Respect of Inter-Country Adoption: A Foster Care and Adoption Policy and Implementation Plan Design for Ghana. To learn how to apply, visit:

[http://bettercarenetwork.org/BCN/details\\_news.asp?ID=24816&themeID=1001&topicID=1006](http://bettercarenetwork.org/BCN/details_news.asp?ID=24816&themeID=1001&topicID=1006)

**CALL OF INTEREST: ADVANCED DIPLOMA IN CHILD PROTECTION IN EMERGENCIES**

As part of an innovative capacity building project in child protection in emergencies being driven forward by the Child Protection Working Group (CPWG), this **Call of Interest** provides academic institutions to partner with the CPWG to develop an **Advanced Diploma in Child Protection in Emergencies**. The Advanced Diploma aims to address the gaps in child protection in emergencies staff capacity and also aims to build upon the innovative inter-agency capacity building initiatives in the child protection in emergencies sector. The CPWG is now looking for an academic partner with a proven ability to develop modules on child protection in emergencies to work with to develop the content, structure and management of the Advanced Diploma in Child Protection in Emergencies. Full details of the proposed programme and partnership, including an application form and a copy of the Scoping Study can be obtained by contacting Katie Bisaro at Save the Children ([k.bisaro@savethechildren.org.uk](mailto:k.bisaro@savethechildren.org.uk)) or Katy Barnett, CPWG Coordinator (UNICEF - [cbarnett@unicef.org](mailto:cbarnett@unicef.org)),

**NEW** *Deadline* for submitting Declaration of Intent ***Monday 13th June 2011***  
[http://bettercarenetwork.org/BCN/details\\_news.asp?ID=24818&themeID=1005&topicID=1033](http://bettercarenetwork.org/BCN/details_news.asp?ID=24818&themeID=1005&topicID=1033)