

To the Better Care Network:

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<http://www.bettercarenetwork.org>

#### FEATURED DOCUMENTS

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- **Children and AIDS Fifth Stocktaking Report, *Unite for Children Unite Against AIDS***  
Achieving an AIDS-free generation is possible if the international community steps up efforts to provide universal access to HIV prevention, treatment, and social protection, according to Children and AIDS: Fifth Stocktaking Report 2010. Attaining this goal, however, depends on reaching the most marginalized members of society. While children in general have benefited enormously from the substantial progress made in the AIDS responses, there are millions of women and children who have fallen through the cracks due to inequities rooted in gender, economic status, geographical location, education level and social status. Lifting these barriers is crucial to universal access to knowledge, care, protection, and the prevention of mother-to-child transmission (PMTCT) for all women and children.  
Read <http://www.bettercarenetwork.org/bcn/details.asp?id=23713&themeID=1004&topicID=1025> at:
- **A Study of the Foster Care Programme in Jamaica, *Office of the Children's Advocate***  
The study aimed to determine the effectiveness and the efficiency of the Foster Care Programme, the adherence to child rights in the provision of Foster Care, and to provide policy direction for the enhancement of the programme. The programme reflects a commitment to the transformation of the child protection system in Jamaica, by strategically moving away from a system that relies on the traditional child rescue approach, to one that embraces the family support model while also proving its cost effectiveness. This targeted transformation also includes improving service delivery to children, and realizing the best outcomes for each child in care, thus ensuring he or she is fully prepared for reintegration into a nurturing family setting and/or into adult society. Read the entire report at: <http://www.bettercarenetwork.org/bcn/details.asp?id=23714&themeID=1002&topicID=1013>

#### OTHER NEW RESOURCES

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- **Public Participation in Law Reform: Revision of Namibia's Draft Child Care and Protection Bill Final Report 2010, *Ministry of Gender Equality and Child Welfare (MGE CW), Legal Assistance Center, & UNICEF***  
The Ministry of Gender Equality and Child Welfare of Namibia recently underwent the process of drafting the Child Care and Protection Bill. By utilizing a rights-based approach, the drafting process of the Child Care Protection Bill was conducted in a participatory manner, engaging with vulnerable and marginalized stakeholders, and particularly taking into account the views of children and women. This document provides a summary of the various forms of consultation undertaken during the revision of the Child Care and Protection Bill and provides a basis for future law reform processes and presents an excellent example of how to include children and the public in the law-making process. Read the entire report at :

<http://www.bettercarenetwork.org/bcn/details.asp?id=23715&themeID=1001&topicID=1006>

- **Foster Care in Namibia: Recommendations for the Framework**

This report prepared for the Namibian Ministry of Gender Equality and Child Welfare (MGECW) assesses the existing framework for foster care in the light of the realities of Namibian foster care in practice. Based on information about foster care frameworks and guardianship legislation in other countries, recommendations are provided for new approaches to foster care and foster care grants for incorporation into Namibia's Child Care and Protection Act (CCPA). Read the entire report at: <http://www.bettercarenetwork.org/bcn/details.asp?id=23716&themeID=1001&topicID=1010>

- **National Plan of Action for Orphans and Vulnerable Children: Ghana**

The development of Ghana's three year National Plan of Action for Orphans and Vulnerable Children (OVC) sets out time bound goals and objectives and serves as a framework for providing care and support to vulnerable children in care institutions. Although Government's policies on child care emphasize a preference for family based care due to the emotional, social and development conditions of families, it however recognizes the fact that for some children, limited institutional care could be beneficial while more durable family based alternatives are worked them. Together with the National Social Protection Strategy (2007) this national plan of Action not only protects children from increased vulnerability but also reduces their risk of abuse. Read more: <http://www.bettercarenetwork.org/bcn/details.asp?id=23717&themeID=1001&topicID=1006>

- **Development of Alternative Services, including Foster Care, within the Framework of Reforming Child Protection System**

The following is a summary of the Bulgarian experience in implementing a comprehensive reform of the care and protection system for children at-risk. It shows the achievements as well as the lessons learned during this challenging process, exploring identification and implementation of reform priorities, the Bulgarian experience of reducing rates of institutionalization, capacitating the social welfare sector and citizen constituency to support foster care development, and responding to social attitudes around at risk children and family and community based care.

<http://www.bettercarenetwork.org/bcn/details.asp?id=23718&themeID=1001&topicID=1010>

- **Practice Principles for the Recruitment and Retention of Kinship, Foster and Adoptive Families for Siblings**

Practice wisdom and research support the premise that children experience better permanency outcomes when placed with their siblings. These outcomes include greater placement stability, fewer emotional and behavioral difficulties, fewer placements and fewer days in placement. Most older youth who age out of the system originally came into care with one or more siblings. This resource offers principles -- which grow out of, and align with, these attitudes -- to frame an agency's recruitment and retention practices related to siblings. Read more at:

<http://www.bettercarenetwork.org/bcn/details.asp?id=23719&themeID=1002&topicID=1014>

## NEWS

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- **Disability Rights International Launches Worldwide Campaign to End the Institutionalization of Children,**

The goal of the *Worldwide Campaign to End the Institutionalization of Children*, including our forthcoming report and follow-up advocacy, is to challenge underlying policies that lead to abuses against children on a global scale. One of the main drivers of institutionalization – particularly in developing countries – is the use of misdirected foreign assistance funding to build new institutions or rebuild old crumbling facilities, instead of providing assistance and access to services for families who want to keep their children at home. Disability Rights International's worldwide report will document the role of international funders in perpetuating the segregation of children with disabilities. To learn more about the campaign, visit: <http://www.disabilityrightsintl.org/learn-about-the-worldwide-campaign-to-end-the-institutionalization-of-children/>

- **BBC Report on Quality of State Care in UK,** BBC release a special video report into the quality of state care, spending six months following children in the care of Coventry Social Services to find out if the state can be a real parent.

[http://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episode/b00v77vn/Panorama\\_Kids\\_in\\_Care/](http://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episode/b00v77vn/Panorama_Kids_in_Care/)

- **Child Out Reports Bulgaria to Ban Child Abandonment.** Child abandonment will be forbidden by Bulgarian law within the next three years, the country's Deputy Social Minister Valentina Simeonova has announced. Read more at:

<http://www.childout.org/archivio/172-bulgaria-to-ban-child-abandonment.html>

## GENERAL INFORMATION

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As of December 20, 2010, the BCN listserv membership includes 2047 child care experts globally. The purpose of the listserv is to enable members to exchange information on matters of mutual concern. If you would like to share a document, raise a specific issue, or reach out in any other way to the Network, please send the information to us at [kriordan@unicef.org](mailto:kriordan@unicef.org). In the interest of keeping messages consolidated, we will manage announcements on the listserv and send out a few messages each month.

We would like to involve as many people as possible who are concerned with better care issues in the Network. Please advise anyone who would like to be added to the listserv to send us a message at [kriordan@unicef.org](mailto:kriordan@unicef.org) with "listserv request" in the subject line.

Alternatively, visit the homepage of the Better Care Network website, and click on the upper right box where it says "click here to sign up for our email announcements".

<http://www.bettercarenetwork.org>

Best,  
Ghazal Keshavarzian and Kathleen Riordan  
Better Care Network Secretariat