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### ✓ *UPCOMING EVENTS FOR OCTOBER 2018*

DATE	EVENT	LOCATION
6 November 2018	<b>International Day for Preventing the Exploitation of the Environment in War and Armed Conflict</b>	Melaka, Malaysia
10 November 2018	<b>World Science Day for Peace and Development</b>	Melaka, Malaysia
16 November 2018	<b>International Day for Tolerance</b>	Melaka, Malaysia
18 November 2018	<b>World Day of Remembrance for Road Traffic Victims</b>	Melaka, Malaysia
25 November 2018	<b>International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women</b>	Melaka, Malaysia



### ✓ ANGOLA: ANGOLA ENCOURAGES UN REFORMS

**Luanda, 25 October 2018** - ANGOLA encourages the continuation of reforms taking place in the United Nations (UN) and the commitment to the reinforcement of the co-operation among nations, in the framework of peace maintenance, the secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, Tété António, informed on Wednesday.

Speaking in the act that marked the 73rd anniversary of the creation of the United Nations, a

ceremony held in Luanda, Tété António said that Angola is satisfied with the UN support to the country's development.

He praised the UN for its continuous efforts towards the preservation of peace worldwide and regretted the fact that after 73 years of its existence the world still faces many challenges like threats to peace as well as the existence of high poverty rates.

In the ambit of the

co-operation between the United Nations and the regional organisations, he said Angola has been making its contributions through the African Union.

Meanwhile, the resident UN System co-ordinator, Paolo Balladeli, said that the world body devotes special attention to the youth, in aspects like professionalization, decent employment and access to basic service.

He recognised that there is greater openness, dialogue and participation of the Angolan civil society since the new Head of State and of the Executive, João Lourenço, took over in September 2017.

Angola is a member of the United Nations Organization since 01 December 1976.

[AngolaPress]

### ✓ BOTSWANA: YOUTH FUND OWED OVER P400 MILLION

**Gaborone, 10 October 2018** - IN what chairman of Public Account Committee (PAC) Abram Kesupile has described as a waste and encouraging a casual attitude among young entrepreneurs, the Youth Development Fund (YDF) under Ministry of Youth, Sport and Culture has failed to collect over P400 million from businesses owned by the youth.

Appearing before Public Accounts Committee (PAC) Permanent Secretary at

MYSC Kago Ramokate said they have set a target of collecting P6 million annually but only managed to collect P2.8 million as payment for the grants given to the youth through YDF.

He said YDF has since repossessed some of assets owned by the young entrepreneurs and auctioned them as a way of recuperating the money owed.

MP for Gaborone Bonnigton South Ndaba

Gaolathe asked Ramokate about the success rate of the businesses funded by YDF which he said is at 86%.

"How can it be 86% when you're owed close to a half billion pula?" asked Gaolathe, informing Ramokate that they are not empowering the youth to run businesses that are sustainable.

Ramokate revealed that they do not have guidelines for YDF and that they are currently working on them

and will be ready by January 2019.

"This is not a business fund but rather make it a social fund which will rather push the youth to a certain level. Re look at YDF as a kindergarten for the young people who want to pursue businesses," advised Gaolathe.

[The Patriot on Sunday]

### ✓ ETHIOPIA: AU OFFICIAL URGES AFRICA TO HARNESS BURGEONING YOUTH POPULATION

**Addis Ababa, 22 October 2018** - MAHAMA Ouedraogo, African Union (AU) Director of Human Resources, Science and Technology Department, on Monday called for concerted efforts in harnessing the continent's burgeoning youth population as a positive impetus toward development.

"Youth development is fundamental if Africa is to achieve its mission of an

integrated, prosperous and peaceful Africa, driven by its own citizens and representing a dynamic force in the global arena," Ouedraogo told a meeting.

"The time to harness African youth as partners, assets and as a prerequisite in the fight against corruption for the sustainable development of the African continent is now," he said.

Investment in youth is a major priority area of the AU's "seven aspirations" as indicated in its flagship 50-year development plan, Agenda 2063.

Aspiration 6 of Agenda 2016 advocates for "an Africa whose development is people driven, relying on the potential offered by African people, especially its women and youth, and caring for children."

"Young people are Africa's main assets for today and the future," Ouedraogo said.



"The African Union and its member states need to collaborate, invest and build on the richness and potential that young people represent for the continent in terms of skills, creativity and diversity," he said.

Ouedraogo made the call during the AU's Specialized Technical Committee Meeting on Youth, Culture and Sports.

The five-day meeting, underway from Oct. 21 to

25, mainly aims to provide opportunities for AU member states to discuss issues pertaining to the development of the youth, culture and sport sectors at national, regional and continental levels as well as

establish synergies among the three sectors, according to the AU.

[Addis Fortune]

### ✓ ZAMBIA: YOUTHS LOANS HALTED

**Lusaka, 3 October 2018** - GOVERNMENT has stopped the disbursement of youth empowerment loans until it devises a better recovery mechanism following failure by beneficiaries to pay back the money.

Minister of Youth, Sport and Child Development Moses Mawere said in an interview yesterday that the ministry is still reviewing the programme.

"The only empowerment we have done this year under Youth Empowerment Fund is to give 100 tricycles and

also information and communication technologies equipment to 60 districts," he said.

Services Corporation, is still running.

[Zambia Daily Mail]

Mr Mawere, however, said the Street Vendors Empowerment Fund, which is being administered through the Zambia Postal

### ✓ ZIMBABWE: YOUTH MINING PROGRAMME LAUNCHED

**Harare, 20<sup>th</sup> October 2018** - THE Zimbabwe Allied Youth in Mining Organisation (ZAYIMO) has launched a youth mining programme to enable its members to exploit opportunities in the sector.

ZAYIMO president Mr Ephraim Fundukwa said the programme will focus on ensuring the youth's access to loans, safety gear, mining equipment, training and facilitating acquisition of mining claims.

"We are glad to announce that a new baby has been born in the mining sector in the name of ZAYIMO, whose mandate is to organise young and energetic youths in the mining sector who wish to contribute positively to the growth of our economy through mining," he said.

"We are heeding the call by His Excellency Cde ED Mnangagwa that Zimbabwe is open for business and politics should now make way for economics.

"The youths are the future of tomorrow; therefore, giving them a voice in all sectors will help in bettering our country not just economically, but socially as well."

Mr Fundukwa said his organisation was alive to the need to ensure gender parity and in this regard the programme will cater for both male and female miners.

"We recognise the need to mainstream gender issues as enshrined in the Constitution and, therefore, our call is for all young women to defy traditional belief that mining is for men and participate in mining and they will be given first priority in accessing loans and getting mining claims," he said.

The programme is registered under Ministry of Youth, Sports, Arts and Recreation through the Zimbabwe Youth Council under Chapter 25: 19 of the council's act.

[The Herald]



## ✓ BERMUDA: ARGUS DONATION TO YOUTH COUNSELLING PROJECT

**Hamilton, 19 October 2018**

- THE Argus Group has donated \$15,000 to Family Centre in support of its Youth Development Zone counselling programme.

The YDZ is a community initiative launched in 2011 that offers services to the youth population living in North East Hamilton.

Family Centre provides YDZ with child and family counselling and, by end of last September, had worked with 77 families.

In addition to counselling, Family Centre helps to coordinate other services for YDZ children and their

families, including collaboration with Bermuda Police Service, Bermuda Economic Development Corporation, Bermuda Coalition, Workforce Development, Salvation Army, Mirrors, Team Street Safe and a local church representative. According to a press release, these efforts help to ensure that social services are more accessible to residents living in the North East Hamilton area.

Martha Dismont, executive director of Family Centre, stated: "I would like to thank Argus for being a loyal supporter of the

Family Centre year after year.

For us to be accessible to the communities that we serve, we rely on generous donations from sponsors. Without them, we couldn't have the impact that we do."

Lauren Bell, executive vice-president of Life and Pensions at the Argus Group, and a member of the Argus Group's Charitable Donations Committee, stated: "Our core values include integrity, fairness, excellence, respect, professionalism and teamwork.

We believe that it is only fair for everyone to have access to professional services like the counselling that Family Centre provides.

"Their YDZ programme involves teamwork with partners throughout the community to ensure families who otherwise would not have access to important services can do so.

*[Royal Gazette]*

## ✓ CANADA: HEALTH PREVENTING PROBLEMATIC SUBSTANCE USE IN YOUTH

**Ottawa, 24 October 2018** -

**PROBLEMATIC** use of alcohol, cannabis and opioids is a serious issue in Canada. The more than 8,000 deaths from opioid poisoning since 2016 are preventable deaths. More deaths can be stopped with our collective action.

"We have an opportunity and an obligation to come together to prevent problematic substance use from impacting future generations.

We need to collaborate across all sectors to improve policies that can protect youth and provide them with information on the harms and risks of using substances.

To tackle this problem and to save lives, we must maintain, expand and evolve efforts across sectors and society.

Today, Dr. Theresa Tam, Canada's Chief Public Health Officer, released her

annual report on the State of Public Health in Canada. This year's report provides a snapshot of the health status of Canadians and then explores problematic substance use in youth with a focus on prevention. Dr. Tam will launch her report this afternoon at the Canadian Mental Health Association's national conference in Montreal, Quebec.

While many youth experiment with using drugs and alcohol, some use these substances in ways that are harmful to themselves and others.

Intervening early to counteract the risk factors of problematic use among youth offers the best chance of having a positive influence on a young person's development and in reducing long-term harms to them and to society as a whole.

There is no single cause of problematic substance use

in youth, so preventing it will require strong collaboration among many sectors of society.

A comprehensive approach includes marketing restrictions, reduced availability, and the provision of stable housing, supportive education, and accessible social and mental health supports.

These will help youth thrive and prevent the harmful use of substances.

"I thank Dr. Tam for her report and support her call to undertake a coordinated approach across sectors to prevent problematic substance use among youth in Canada.

Protecting our youth is one of the main reasons the Government of Canada strictly regulates substances like alcohol, cannabis and opioids," comments Ginette Petitpas Taylor, the federal Minister of Health.

"The Canadian Mental

Health Association is pleased to see that the Chief Public Health Officer of Canada is endorsing a strong public health approach in her new report, which outlines how we can all best support young people to make healthy choices that contribute to their mental wellness.

This approach will support the promotion of mental health throughout all stages of a person's life and a family's development, and help balance the existing clinical focus on mental illness only after it's become acute" states Dr. Patrick Smith, National CEO, Canadian Mental Health Association.

*[Toronto Star]*



## ✓ CHILE: CHILE TO HOST WORLD CONGRESS OF SCIENTIFIC YOUTH

**Santiago de Chile, 13 October 2018** - THE University of Santiago De Chile (USACH) will host the 9th World Congress of Scientific Youth from November 15-19, with the participation of a hundred exhibitors from 18 countries.

The event, which will be organized jointly by USACH and the International Federation of

Scientific Societies, will be attended by specialists from NASA and the two-time participant of the Nobel Peace Prize, Mexican Ana Maria Cetto.

Towards a more human science, is the conclave slogan which is held every two years and for the first time has Chile as its main host.

Adriana Ocampo, director

of NASA's New Horizons Program, and NASA exoplanet specialist Mario Perez will also be at the event.

According to the top university center, the meeting will address issues such as climate change, electro mobility, migration and gender, through workshops and conversations.

By opening a space for the promotion and exchange of different disciplines, the University greatly contributes to the strengthening of knowledge in Latin America, said the Vice Rector of USACH, Dr. Julio Romero Figueroa.

[La Prensa]

## ✓ JAMAICA: AVASANT SCALES UP ITS YOUTH DIGITAL EMPLOYMENT INITIATIVE

**Kingston, 12 October 2018** - TO support the development of the BPO industry in Jamaica, the Avasant Foundation and partners are scaling up the Avasant Youth Digital Employment Initiative.

The aim of the new programme is to train between 500 and 800 high potential youth to participate in the country's BPO sector, which aims to add 30,000 jobs by 2020.

Jamaica is implementing a strategy to become a nearshore location for the IT and Business Process (BPO) industry. The sector has seen steady growth in recent years, up 15% annually.

To further support the industry's growth, and to help reduce Jamaica's severe youth unemployment rate of about 26%, the Avasant Youth Digital Employment Initiative was launched in 2015.

The initiative is the brainchild of the Avasant Foundation, the charity arm of global management consulting and outsourcing

advisory firm Avasant, and Xerox.

The six-week programme aimed to support 30 youth, primarily disadvantaged but high potential youth, to gain the professional skills necessary for a career in ICT-enabled work.

The programme has thus far trained a total of 123 youth in Kingston and Montego Bay, Jamaica. More than half of whom have already secure positions at partner organisations, with most of the rest in the on boarding or interview stage.

As part of the development of the wider BPO industry in Jamaica, the Jamaica Promotion Corporation (JAMPRO) aims to create around 30,000 jobs in the Jamaican Business Process industry by 2020.

To support JAMPRO fill the positions, the Avasant Foundation, and its partners such as Jamaica's University of Technology\*, are scaling up the training programme, under the FUTURE JAMAICA banner.

The programme will equip between 500 and 800 people with the ICT skills

necessary to work in the country's growing BPO sector - among others.

ChitraRajeshwari, Executive Director of Avasant Foundations, remarks, "I am extremely proud of all 123 students who have graduated through our skills training program and are already working or soon to be employed in the contact center industry.

Now they can look ahead to a brighter future. I am very grateful to the BPO industry who believed in our program and our youth."

Professor Rosalea Hamilton who leads UTech's Community Service and Development Division reflects, "This Avasant Foundation initiative addresses the needs of our communities, especially our at-risk young women who need help to pursue opportunities to create income now and into the future."

[The Guardian]



### ✓ PERU: YOUTH GROUP HELPS PERU FOOD PANTRY

Lima, 11 October 2018 -

*[Peru this Week]*

WHILE the -30F wind chill put a damper on the outside Peru Winterfest activities, it was still a productive Saturday inside the Peru Community Center.

Members of the Friends on a Mission youth group used the morning to sort and fold more than a thousand plastic bags, to be used by those people served by the Servant's Heart Food Pantry.

Both programs are part of the United Baptist Church of Peru.

Food pantry Director Brenda Swan said the bags are brought in by people making food donations that keep the program operating. Hours here are 9 a.m. to noon Tuesday and 9 to 11 a.m. on the second Saturday of the month.

The service project is part of the youth group's effort while fasting for 30 hours in order to raise money for hungry children through World Vision's 30-Hour Famine event.

Cathy Hezelton, who has directed the youth group since 2000, said there were nine youths participating in the 30-hour famine program, in which the young people learn about the children they are helping as well as doing local service projects.

She said evidence of the positive way this program affects the youth group is that former members Seth Tacheny, Vernan Farrar and Briant Hunt returned Saturday to assist with their service project.

NEWS



## ✓ BANGLADESH: BANGLADESH'S YOUTH OPPORTUNITIES LAUNCHES APP FOR IPHONE

**Dhaka, 14 October 2018 -** BANGLADESH's 'Youth Opportunities' has launched its app for the iPhone users for the global youths. Canadian High Commissioner in Dhaka Benoit Prefontaine launched the app at an event on Sunday and said he was "excited" to see such initiative from Bangladeshi youths.

"This could have been

created in any country," he said.

The Youth Opportunities is the largest web-based global platform for young people across the world where "opportunity seekers can meet with the opportunity providers".

Using the app, one can get the information related to scholarships, conferences, exchange programmes and internships.

Osama Bin Noor, co-founder, said they launched their iPhone application based on their success in Android mobile application which received the national mobile application award from the government.

That app is currently being used by more than 127,000 users across the globe.

Noor said the new app will

help youth around the world "to get access to success in no time".

"This will accelerate the process of their search, for a better tomorrow," Osama added.

[Bdnews24.com]

## ✓ CHINA: YOUTH ARE STEPPING UP TO HELP IN EFFORTS TO PROTECT AFRICA'S RHINO

**Beijing 2 October 2018 -** SOUTHEAST Asia is a primary rhino horn consumer region, with the demand for horn driving the devastating loss of rhino to poaching in South Africa.

Through ground-breaking university-led programmes in Shanghai and Beijing, students are designing innovative awareness campaigns to motivate their communities to stop using

rhino horn.

This is the story of a group of these students as they journey into the wilderness to learn more about our iconic and beloved rhino.

[South coast Herald]

## ✓ INDIA: HARCOFED ORGANIZES YOUTH SKILL DEVELOPMENT EVENT

**New Delhi, 24 October 2018 -** HARYANA State Cooperative Development Federation (HARCOFED) has organized a youth skill development program at Industrial Training Institute Panchkula last week. Deputy Registrar of Cooperative Societies Bhiwani Satish Rohila was invited as the Chief Guest.

More than 50 students participated in the programme.

Lauding the role of HARCOFED, Rohila said that skill development for the youth is an excellent means to achieve of the goal of self-employment.

He urged upon the youths to participate vigorously in the Make in India program and make Prime Minister Narendra Modi's dream a success.

Rohila also felt that for the state to progress there is a need to establish more cooperative societies by the people. It not only generates employment opportunities but also help in better earnings, he added.

On this occasion the organizer taught the student how to form a cooperative society, what are the Cooperative Principle, how to secure loans provided by Central Cooperative Banks.

They also informed about the various activities of Harcofed.

NABARD Assistant Manager Sohanlal, who was present on the occasion, informed the youths on skill development schemes, schemes like PM Suraksha Bhima Yozana, Jeevan Jyoti Yozana, and Stand up India etc. Students heard these out with rapt attention, claimed

the organizers.

The Haryana State Cooperative Development Federation Ltd; popularly known as HARCOFED which recently held its AGM, came into existence in 1966 as a result of bifurcation of erstwhile State Cooperative Union of Punjab.

This Institution works like a liaison agency between various Cooperative Institutions and the State Government.

HARCOFED is entrusted with the activities relating to Member Education and Training to employees as also Publicizing the activities and achievements of Cooperatives.

For the professionalization of junior level personnel of various sectors of the Cooperatives, the

Federation conducts training programmes as per requirements of the concerned institutions.

These courses are conducted by the A.C.E.Os with the help of officers of Cooperative Department and other Cooperative institutions.

[Oneindia]



### ✓ INDONESIA: INDONESIA NEEDS YOUTH TO FACE GLOBAL COMPETITION

**Jokowi, 10 October 2018** - THE President recalled the success in the 2018 Asian Games at which Indonesia bagged 31 gold medals and ranked the fourth. The public support for Indonesian athletes was one of the success determinants.

Jokowi said people at that time did not question from where the athletes came.

“No one thinks what tribe the badminton player from or his religion. They only think for Indonesia, for the red-white flag.” Therefore, the young generation was urged to recognize and appreciate the diversity in Indonesia.

This country, Jokowi added, has numerous tribes, religions, and regional

languages and so the heterogeneity must be seen as a grace. Otherwise, Indonesia could not be developed.

Joko Widodo further delivered suggestions to the youth, especially leaders of student organizations and student religious units, to influence their friends to honor every diversity as

well as to those who have different views on politics. President Jokowi then called all the youth to help to spread right information. “Please correct it if there is defamation, hoax news, reproach on social media.”

*[The Jakarta Post]*

### ✓ MALAYSIA: PM: HOPE IS ON THE SHOULDERS OF THE YOUTH

**Kuala Lumpur, 29 October 2018** - THE fate of a united and prosperous Malaysia now lies with the young generation, said Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

The Prime Minister said the country’s future rests on the shoulder of the nation’s youth, especially in the event that their contemporaries from the older generation are no longer around.

“My hope is on the young. A large number of my generation is gone. Whose hands would we leave the fate of this nation to, if not to the young generation?”

“I plead with the young generation, please learn and grasp every kind of knowledge to transform Malaysia into a developed country.

Acquire all skills. Strengthen your inner character. Hold firm to religion and noble values. Reject corruption firmly. Inculcate truth, honesty, and justice. Let us work together and unite to create a bright future for Malaysia,” he said. Dr Mahathir was speaking during a speech to unveil the 11th Malaysia Plan

(11MP) Mid-Term Review (MTR) at the Dewan Rakyat this afternoon. Meanwhile, he emphasized that 11MP MTR is for the prosperity of all Malaysians from Perlis to Sabah and encompassed Malays, Chinese, Iban, Kadazan, Murut, Orang Asli and other ethnic groups in the country.

“We want a united Malaysia. We want Malaysians who are successful and enjoy the nation’s wealth. I urge all Malaysians to shoulder this responsibility.

“If all contents in this document are implemented, I am confident that Malaysia would roar once again as the Asian Tiger.

“Malaysia’s image would change from a kleptocratic nation to a true democratic country, with a government which is clean, noble and with integrity.

“Malaysians at every corner of the world would be able to introduce themselves proudly as “I am a Malaysian.” This is our (government) vow. This is our promise.

“I pray to God that we are

able to implement this together,” he said to loud chants of approval from the lawmakers.

*[New Straits Times]*



## ✓ FRANCE: YOUTH ARE MORE RECEPTIVE TO TEMPORARY WORK, PRISM'EMPLOI FINDS

**Paris, 24 October 2018** - YOUNG people under the age of 25 in France are becoming receptive to temporary work, according to new research from Prism'Emploi, the French association of employment agencies.

The research found that youth are significantly more likely to have experienced this form of employment. Prism'Emploi found that 34% have experienced temporary work in 2018 compared to 27% in 2017. Moreover, their impression

of temporary work is changing favorably as the study found that for 73% of youth, it is a good way to build a career, this is 4% higher than last year.

When broken down, the data showed that more women (77%) view temporary work as a good way to build a career compared to men (70%).

Meanwhile, Prism'Emploi's study also found that optimism in the job market is growing among youth as 43% of them are optimistic,

which is 14% higher than in 2017.

Prism'Emploi's barometer, which measures the degree of optimism of young people and their job situation, recorded a score of 6.3 out of 10, which is higher than last year's 6.1 and the highest score recorded since the barometer launched.

The barometer found that 70% of students and 53% of young people under 25 who are looking for work or employment; say they are

optimistic about the employment situation in their sector of activity.

Prism'Emploi's research also found that for 43% of young people in employment, the work environment is the first determining factor for feeling happy at work.

*[Daily News]*

## ✓ ROMANIA: ARUN YOUTH PROJECTS YOUNG LEADERS RIDE FOR ROMANIA

**Bucharest, 12 October 2018** - YOUNG leaders from Arun Youth Projects are preparing for a 24-hour challenge ahead of a learning exchange trip to Romania.

The enthusiastic team of five will be part of a team of 30 young people working with the Roma community on a learning exchange next

summer.

Arun Youth Projects team lead Emma Biffi with Stacie Holmes and Shannon McNeil Twins Caprice and Elise White, 15, Shannon McNeil, 16, Casey Gardner, 14, and Stacie Holmes, 18, need to raise £650 each and they are starting their efforts with a Ride for Romania fundraiser tomorrow.

They will be taking it in turns to cycle on a static bike for 24 hours and have arranged a range of stalls and activities alongside. All are welcome to the Wickbourne Centre, in Clun Road, Littlehampton, between 10am and 3pm for stalls, crafts, challenges, a cake sale, raffle and more. Littlehampton mayor Billy Blanchard-Cooper will be

popping in to support the group as they attempt to cover the full distance from Littlehampton to Romania, a total of 1,910km, in 24 hours.

*[Prosport]*

## ✓ SPAIN: EDUCATION STRIKE FOR BETTER FUTURE OF SPAIN'S YOUTH

**Madrid, 9 October 2018** - F.E.CC.OO., FeSP-UGT and STEs-Intersindical, the ETUCE member organisations in Spain, together with students and parents are organising the education strike to demand the Spanish authorities to:

- repeal RD 14/2012 that leads to severe cuts in the Spanish education sector;

- withdraw the appeal to the Constitutional Court against the cessation of the LOMCE;

-repeal the LOMCE that fosters inequality in

education and leads to segregation in Spanish society;

reverse cuts in the education sector and improve education personnel's working conditions; guarantee collective bargaining on all issues affecting education personnel;

- involve education social partners in the negotiations on an Education Pact.

Dissatisfied education personnel, students and teachers are protesting

against education personnel's precarious working conditions, low salaries or salaries that have been frozen for several years, large classroom sizes and dismissals in Spain that pose a severe threat to the future of the teaching profession in Spain and jeopardise the future of Spain's youth.

As education social partners, we believe that without guaranteeing decent working conditions for education personnel and involving education social partners in decision-making, the delivery of high quality education is going to be

compromised.

We strongly support our Spanish sister organisations in their appeal to the Spanish government to respect and promote the rights of Spanish education personnel", said Susan Flocken, ETUCE European Director.

*[ABC]*



## ✓ SWEDEN: COUNTRIES THAT BAN CORPORAL PUNISHMENT HAVE LESS YOUTH VIOLENCE

Stockholm, 22 October

2018 - JUST a few decades ago, many people around the world considered spanking or slapping a child to be an appropriate and ultimately harmless method of discipline.

But a solid body of science has since linked corporal punishment with a wide array of developmental problems for children.

This has led countries around the world, starting with Sweden in 1979, to introduce bans on corporal punishment both in schools and at home.

Now a new study has identified another benefit of such laws: Countries that ban corporal punishment are safer for all kids to grow up in because they have lower rates of youth violence.

The study, published in the medical journal *BMJ Open*, was conducted by researchers in Canada, the US, and Israel. Researchers based their findings on surveys of more than 400,000 young people between 11 and 25 years old, carried out in schools in 88 countries between 2003 and 2014, about how often they physically fought with their peers.

They defined “frequent fighting” as four or more episodes of violence a year.

The study then considered whether corporal punishment was legal in each student’s country of residence, and if so, whether the ban was partial (that is, only in schools), or total (in the home as well).

The researchers found that, across the board, boys fought more frequently than girls.

But boys in countries with a total ban on corporal punishment were 31% less likely to fight frequently than their peers in countries without a ban, while girls in countries with bans were 58% less likely to fight frequently.

This study has some limitations. Most notably, when factors linked to the wealth and safety of students’ home countries were taken into account, a ban on corporal punishment only appeared to be linked to a decrease in youth violence among girls, not boys.

As *The Guardian* notes, another limitation is that “the research did not look at how fighting among adolescents changed from before a ban to after it was introduced,” nor does it consider whether the bans were in place when the young adults surveyed were in early childhood. And the study describes an association rather than causation.

As the authors write, “It remains unclear whether bans precipitate change in child discipline or reflect a social milieu that inhibits youth violence.”

But the study does add to a large body of work on the negative impacts of corporal punishment. Studies dating back to the early 1960s suggest a relationship between corporal punishment and decreased cognitive ability in early

childhood, and recent research has bolstered these findings and shown negative effects of corporal punishment on school achievement.

A 2013 study showed that children who were frequently spanked by their fathers at age five had lower child vocabulary scores at age nine.

A 2010 study showed that the use of physical discipline in kindergarten is associated with lower fifth-grade math achievement, and another 2010 study found that children who were spanked were at higher risk of academic failure in the fifth grade.

And yet spanking still a common practice in many places around the world. Jenny Anderson writes in *Quartz*, that 19 preschools in the US still allow corporal punishment. That’s concerning from a childhood development point of view.

As Roger Thompson writes in *Quartz*, “The problem is that children enter a world of emotional chaos when their attachment figure, from whom they are wired to seek safety and security, becomes the figure who also inflicts physical harm.”

[Metro]



### ✓ UNITED KINGDOM: COMPULSORY SEX EDUCATION IN ALL SCHOOLS WELCOME

**London, 2 October 2018** - JUSTINE Greening, Secretary of State for Education, has announced plans for the Government to introduce legislation that will see every child from the age of 4 taught sex education.

Following years of campaigning, UK Youth Parliament welcomes the news that more young people will receive sex education and warns it must be implemented through a youth-led UK-wide review.

UK Youth Parliament has been calling for a 'curriculum for life' for a number of years. We've argued that a radical overhaul of citizenship education and PSHE is needed to ensure schools prepare students for life.

Both PSHE and citizenship are really important for young people's growth and development as they teach vital life skills and can be the first steps to engaging young people in political life.

This year, UK Youth Parliament will be working to achieve an adequate curriculum for life, following a vote by Members of Youth Parliament in the House of Commons last year, which saw the issue chosen as the priority campaign for England.

UK Youth Parliament believes every young person across the UK should receive the same high-level standard of sex and relationship education in schools.

It is nonetheless vitally important PSHE includes opportunities to learn about politics, cultural awareness, community cohesion, sustainable living and personal finance.

It's become increasingly apparent that young people have felt the current citizenship education and PSHE provisions are inadequate for today's generation of students.

Young people have repeatedly called for a curriculum for life, most recently in UK Youth Parliament's 2016 Make Your Mark ballot of 978,216 young people, when the issue was voted a top priority.

However, it's important to note a curriculum for life has become a recurring issue, topping the Make Your Mark on four occasions in the last 5 years.

The British Youth Council have also been working to convince the Government to introduce statutory and compulsory high-quality citizenship and sex and relationship education to the curriculum for a number of years.

In 2013, the British Youth Council's Youth Select Committee report 'A Curriculum for Life' concluded life skills education in schools fell well short of its full potential and little has been done to address the report's findings since.

According to political commentators, it is likely that the introduction of a compulsory sex education

would also include a change in teacher training.

UK Youth Parliament believes it is paramount teaching staff are specifically trained to a national standard to deliver PSHE and citizenship education.

*[ukyouthparliament.org.uk]*

NEWS



## ✓ AUSTRALIA: LOCAL LEADERS MISSION ROYALS HELP FOCUS ON YOUTH SERVICES

**Melbourne, 25 October 2018** - IT was a royally momentous occasion for Mission Australia last week when the Duke and Duchess of Sussex stepped foot in our social enterprise restaurant, Charcoal Lane in Melbourne.

Out of all the fine dining restaurants in Melbourne, the royal couple chose to throw the limelight on the good work done at Charcoal Lane and we take our magenta hats off to them.

During the visit, Their Royal Highnesses were particularly interested to learn about the difference the hands-on traineeship program is making in the lives of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people.

The program is an important one and should be celebrated. With a full-time case worker on board, it provides a culturally safe

space for young people to express their individual identities and overcome any challenges they may face on their journey to employment.

It not only provides training and real work for young people, but also provides mentoring and fosters a sense of cultural and community pride.

We know from our everyday work and Mission Australia's newly released Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Youth Report, that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people have a range of ambitions; they're keen to work and see a future engaging in further education or employment. But we also know these young people are facing some complex challenges and without access to the support they need in the places they live, these challenges are difficult to overcome.

I'm sure you'll agree that all young people regardless of cultural identity, gender or postcode should have the supports they need to reach their full potential.

But there are still far too many challenges to achieving their aspirations and living happy, healthy lives.

This includes a shocking one in 10 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people rating their happiness as zero out of 10 compared to one in 50 non-Indigenous young people, and more Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people spending time away from home because they felt like they couldn't go back.

In Goulburn and across Australia, there's a need for age appropriate, gender specific and culturally safe services for young people that walk alongside them to

address challenges such as mental illness, homelessness, disengagement from education, alcohol and other drug misuse, family violence and conflict in the home.

As frequently referenced during Their Royal Highness' whirlwind tour around Australia youth services are vital and can help young people overcome the challenges they face.

As a priority, Australians must work together to do everything we can to invest in all young people so they can realise their full potential and take steps needed for a brighter future. We will be a richer nation for it.

*[Goulburn Post]*

## ✓ FIJI: SUPPORT FOR SUSTAINABLE FIJIAN YOUTH STARTUPS

**Suva, 15 October 2018** - IT's not very often that we hear of initiatives that support sustainable Fijian youth start-ups in organic agribusiness and small manufacturers.

Thanks to Loving Islands an award-winning sustainable development organisation, and Tasty Island Treats Fiji, a local food and beverage startup, this problem will soon be a thing of the past.

Both enterprises thrive on conserving the environment through sustainable development and what better way than to target Fijian youth startups trying

to see the light of day.

The exciting new initiative along with their new office space at 11 Bureta Street in Tamavua will be launching in the coming weeks to bring Suva a new retail outlet of authentic high quality island homewares, independent clothing labels, and jewelry, as well as a co-working office and commercial kitchen to promote and assist local organic and healthy food startups.

Litia Kirwin, founding director of Loving Islands said the two enterprises are working together to estab-

lish the new multi-purpose space drawing from their first-hand experiences of the challenges faced by youth startups in Fiji.

"We are very excited to bring this space to life as it will provide much needed support to young entrepreneurs as well as a new social destination for Suva locals and tourists to engage in," she said.

Nakita Bingham, owner of Tasty Island Treats Fiji, said the new collaboration with Loving Islands will include a startup incubator, social enterprise, training centre, organic garden, café and

retail store.

"It will also see environmental training and education providing ranging from an after-school programme for children to sustainable urban farming workshops for the general public," she explained.

The now fully-booked programme will comprise practical sessions on the Pacific Organic Standards, soil health, soil ecology and composting; nutrient analysis and organic.

*[Fiji Sun Online]*



### ✓ NEW ZEALAND: \$65K FOR 640 YOUTH DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES

**Wellington, 30 October 2018** - SEVEN youth sector organisations will share a total of \$65,000 funding to help them provide new youth development opportunities for around 640 young people, Youth Minister Nikki Kaye announced today.

“This funding is about supporting more leadership, volunteering and mentoring opportunities for young people across New Zealand,” says Ms Kaye.

“The opportunities cover a broad spectrum, from supporting young people to reduce online bullying and move away from at-risk behavior, to enabling them to explore potential career paths and support young disabled people and those living with cancer.

“It’s great to be able to support the many organisations out there doing fantastic work for our young people, and enabling them to provide hundreds more opportunities at the same time.

“There are new opportunities created from Northland to Otago, and these will enable more young people to develop their own skills and leadership and also contribute to other young people and their communities.”

The organisations and initiatives benefitting from this funding are: Sticks ‘n Stones - \$12,000 to support 150 young people in Otago to become ambassadors for ‘responsible digital citizenship’, by running community events and activities for other young people to address the issue of online bullying.

Central Otago REAP - \$12,000 to support 40 rural young people from Central Otago to receive one-on-one and group mentoring, to help them reduce at-risk behaviours by building positive relationships and skills such as resilience and decision-making.

Phab - \$10,000 to support 100 young disabled

people from Auckland to become leaders who act as advocates and supporters for other young people living with a disability.

CCS Disability Action \$7,000 to support 40 young disabled people from Northland to be part of a youth steering group and contribute to the goal of ensuring that those living with a disability are involved in decision-making and ‘in the driver’s seat’ of their lives.

Tauranga Youth Development Team \$10,000 to support 100 Bay of Plenty young people to be part of a project developing a series of local youth events, including workshops, team building and social events. Canteen - \$7000 to support 140 young Aucklanders to become leaders and mentors supporting young people living with cancer.

Taranaki Futures - \$7000 to enable 70 young people living in the Taranaki region to participate in the

Accelerator programme, which partners young people with business mentors and provides actual workplace experience to help formulate potential career paths.

The new opportunities announced today are part of a focus on increasing youth development opportunities from 50,000 to 70,000 annually, and increasing the funds targeting disadvantaged youth from 18 to 30 per cent.

“A leadership, mentoring or volunteering opportunity can turn young people around and open up new directions and possibilities.

This is about giving more young people the chance to develop their skills and build a path to a successful future,” says Ms Kaye.

[Scoop.co.nz]

### ✓ SAMOA: SAMOA’S YOUTH HONOURED WITH INTERNATIONAL WETLANDS PRIZE

**Apia, 20 October 2018** - IN May this year, Samoa’s Youth in Climate Action Network (Y.C.A.N.) learned they had won a Ramsar Wetland Conservation award of US\$10,000 (T\$26,609).

President Samantha Kwan, still very much taken aback by the win, travelled to Dubai yesterday to accept the prize.

The group has been hard at work since 2015 replanting and restoring mangroves and rehabilitating coral reefs on Samoa’s borders.

“Most of our members live on the coastline,” Ms. Kwan said.

“They are at the forefront of the changes happening because of climate change and they can link it to what they see reporting in the

media, and see a direct relationship to the action we are taking.”

With the Ramsar prize, the group will reach more youth to enable greater action against an unliveable planet. More funding means more training and capacity building, not only for youth to know how to restore mangroves or plant more trees, but understand why, and how to pass on that

information on to their communities, Ms. Kwan said.

The Ramsar Conservation is an award for Young Wetlands Champions. Ms. Kwan said it’s great to see youth in particular being honoured.



As a conservation officer at the Ministry of Resources and Natural Environment, Ms. Kwan said she used to see the voices of youth ignored in the conservation policy space or brought in as tokenistic gestures.

“But there has definitely been a huge shift since we

started Y.C.A.N,” she said.

“We’re actually a partner to M.N.R.E. to implement the National Environment Sector Plan for 2017-2020 because they see the work we do on the ground.”

Y.C.A.N. is a three-year old youth group working on

defending Samoa’s coastal areas from pollution, reef degradation, species loss and more.

The Ramsar Wetland Conservation Awards were established in 1996 to recognise and work to promote the conservation and wise use of wetlands.

Ramsar is the oldest of the modern global intergovernmental environmental agreements and was negotiated through the 1960’s. It was adopted in the Iranian city of Ramsar in 1971 and came into force in 1975.

[*Samoa Observer*]

### ✓ SOLOMON ISLAND: SICCI CHAIR: A NEED TO INVEST IN YOUTHS

**Honiara, 14 October 2018** - TO take full advantage of Solomon Islands’ youthful population we need to make decisions on education, training, policy and programs particularly by building job-relevant skills that support entrepreneurship and innovation.

Jay Bartlett, Board Chairman of the Solomon Islands Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SICCI) made this statement at the official launch of the Young Entrepreneurs Council Solomon Islands (YECSI) at the Mendana Hotel in Honiara on Friday 12th October 2018.

“Solomon Islands along with Papua New Guinea have one of the youngest populations in the Pacific and our population structure has a large youth bulge and these statistics are quite daunting and concerning,” he said.

“It is important that we fully understand the population situation we face and the implication it poses for socio-economic growth and development,” Mr Bartlett said.

Mr Bartlett said as a country we currently face a serious skills deficit needed to

support economic growth and we need to reconfigure the training supply system that is demand responsive.

“We must ensure that our youth labour market can supply current market demands.

“Our youth demand our efforts, time and investment and the time to act is now.

This is one of those moments in our history where our future depends heavily on the critical decisions we make today and in my humble opinion we are standing at a cross roads with two pathways ahead of us ‘a demographic dividend or a demographic time bomb’,” he said.

He said statistics are truths that should be self-evident and the need for intervention by the Government, donor partners, private sector, civil society .

“As a general rule of thumb, to reap a dividend you must first invest in it. If we want demographic dividend, then it is important that we truly start investing in our young people along with the supporting infrastructure and institutions.

“We must stop talking. We need real action and real

reform if not for us then for the young people around this country,” he said.

Mr Bartlett said if young people cannot find employment, earn a decent wage, live in dignity then this large mass of frustrated youth will likely become a source of social and political instability a demographic time-bomb.

“I believe our leaders are aware of the urgent need to tackle youth unemployment but we need to take this acknowledgement one step further, it needs to be reflected and translated in our national budget-less discretionary expenditure and more non-discretionary, transparent and accountable spending across the board.

“The basic challenge before us all is to address this crisis. Although data on unemployment is limited, these is absolutely no doubt that there is significant surplus labour in Solomon Islands that could be utilized to the benefit of the country as well as individual youth and their families,” the SICCI Chair said.

Mr Bartlett said the Young Entrepreneurs Council Solomon Islands (YECSI) is all about positioning our youth in a way so they have

an opportunity to influence the decisions that will affect them.

“We must not only create a framework for youth but they must involve in important discussions and nurture the partnership between our youth, Government and business to find ways to meet the development challenges we face,” he said.

YECSI is setup under the auspices of SICCI with support from Government through the Ministry of Women, Youth and Children Affairs to represent young entrepreneurs in the Solomon Islands.

[*Solomon Star*]

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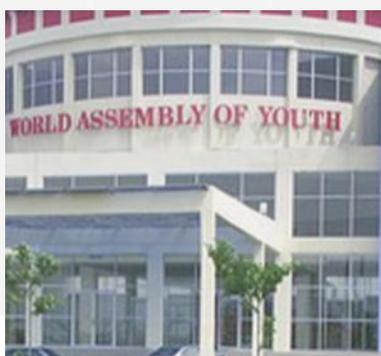
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