



## Happy New Year from the Migration and Child Welfare National Network!

The Migration and Child Welfare National Network (MCWNN) is a [FREE membership](#) coalition targeted for individuals and agencies focused on the intersection of immigration and child welfare. Have you missed a recent e-news? They are now [available online](#)! Follow the MCWNN on [Twitter](#).

### Resources and Toolkits

[When A Parent is Incarcerated – A Primer for Social Workers](#) (by Yali Lincroft, Annie E. Casey Foundation, Dec 2011, 52 pages). The goal of this publication is to provide relevant and practical information for public child welfare agencies and social workers when working with incarcerated parents and their children, including a chapter on immigration. This primer also outlines the many compelling reasons why child welfare agencies should develop programs and policies specifically to address the needs of this subset of children in the child welfare system.

[Hmong Cultural Guide – building Capacity to Strengthen the Well-Being of Immigrant Families and their Children: A Prevention Strategy](#) (Center for Advanced Studies in Child Welfare, University of Minnesota School of Social Work, 2 pages)

[Secure Communities Advocacy Toolkit](#) (Interfaith Immigration Coalition, Dec 2, 2011). The toolkit includes resources for advocates on how to stop secure communities, resources you can do in your communities, etc.

[CORE Scholarship Opportunity for Undocumented Latino Youth](#) (Due Feb 24 2012) Chicano Organizing & Research in Education (CORE) announces their Fourth Annual Que Llavea Café Scholarship which provides financial assistance to college-bound, undocumented, Latino students across the country.

### News & Opinions

[Sold into slavery by Egyptian parents, Beaumont woman now US citizen](#) (Banning Beaumont Patch, Dec 16, 2011). Shyima Hall was 10 years old when she was smuggled into the U.S. and forced to work for a wealthy Egyptian couple in Irvine and care for their five children, according to U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents.

[UN issues first report on human rights of LGBT people](#) (UN News Service, December 20, 2011).

[Bill aims to maintain adoptee's religion – law would require that children be raised in birth family's faith](#) (The Jewish Standard, Dec 16, 2011). An Orthodox Jewish member of the NJ State Assembly introduced a bill that would require adoptees to be placed in homes that would “maintain a child’s religious upbringing.”

[The children that fortune forgot](#) (New York Times, Dec 12, 2011). Rankings of child well-being among 24 member countries of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development.

[Letter to Janet Napolitano – Objection to ICE raid in Alabama which traumatized children](#) (Southern Poverty Law Center, Dec 16, 2011).

[New rights for California’s undocumented](#) (YES! Magazine, Dec 16, 2011). A handful of new laws this autumn will strengthen civil rights, improve access to education, and protect jobs for the state’s undocumented immigrants.

[Nearly half of immigrants’ ;lawyers are inadequate](#) (New York Times, Dec 19, 2011). Immigrants received “inadequate” legal assistance in 33 percent of the cases between mid-2010 and mid-2011 and “grossly inadequate” assistance in 14 percent of the cases, judges said. In a study, judges expressed a bleak view of lawyers representing immigrants. They gave private lawyers the lowest grades, while generally awarding higher marks to pro bono counsel and those from nonprofit organizations and law school clinics.

[U.S. Finds Pervasive Bias Against Latinos by Arizona Sheriff](#) (NY Times, Dec 16, 2011). An investigation that lasted more than two years singled out Sheriff Joe Arpaio as helping to nurture his department's "culture of bias."

[Children’s Wish for the Holidays – Keep Our Families Together](#) (New American Media, Dec 12, 2011). More than 5,000 letters from young people across the country were delivered to Congress last week, with one simple message: To keep their families together. The letters were part of the national campaign, “A Wish for the Holidays” organized by We Belong Together, a project of the National Domestic Workers Alliance and the National Asian Pacific American Women’s Forum.

[Bishops offer ‘encourage, hope’ to immigrants](#) (Brownsville Herald, Dec 12, 2011). The Supreme Court agreed to rule on Arizona’s immigration law, the Hispanic and Latino Bishops of the U.S. issued a letter to immigrants telling them they are not alone. The letter signed by 33 bishops, states the immigrants are not forgotten and that the church will always be open to them.

[Children of Immigrants Ask for Halt to Deportations that Split Families](#) (Huffington Post – Latino Voices, December 8, 2011).

[Bachmann on Dragging Undocumented Immigrants onto Buses in Front of Crying Children – It Can Be Done](#) (Colorlines, Dec 2011).

[Keeping Families Together this Holiday Season](#) (Women’s Refugee Commission Press Release, Dec 7, 2011).

[63% - Unauthorized Immigrants: Length of Residency](#) (Pew Research, Dec 14, 2011). Nearly 2/3 of the 10.2 million unauthorized adult immigrants in the U.S. have lived in this country for at least 10 years, according to new estimates by the Pew Hispanic Center, a project of the Pew Research Center. The analysis finds that 35% of unauthorized adult immigrants have resided in the U.S. for 15 years or more; 28% for 10 to 14 years; 22% for 5 to 9 years; and 15% for less than 5 years.

[States Introduce More Immigration Laws, Enact Fewer](#) (Reuters, Dec 14, 2011). State lawmakers this year introduced more immigration-related bills than in 2010, but enacted fewer laws as state officials waited on the sidelines to see how court challenges to Arizona's get-tough legislation played out.

[Thousands of Immigrant Kids Ask Obama to Stop Deportations](#) (Fox News Latino, Nov 30, 2011).

[Record deportations split families](#) (USA Today, Dec 4, 2011). Advocates for immigrants say Obama's promise of humane discretion in immigration cases hasn't slowed the deportation of illegal migrants who have not been convicted of crimes. The American Immigration Lawyers Association, in a Nov. 10 report, said its examination of 252 cases pointed to an "overwhelming conclusion" that most Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) field offices haven't changed their practices since the directive.

[KIND Attorney of the Month: Bill Ecenbarger, helped gain status for young girl from Guinea](#) (5 minute YouTube Video, KIND, Nov 30, 2011). Seventeen-year-old Jeannette, from Guinea, struggled to find legal assistance to help her make her case for U.S. protection. She was scared to return to her home country but could not find a lawyer to help her. She was in despair, trying to accept the fact that without the ability to make her case before a judge, she would have to return to Guinea, where she feared for her safety, and had no one to care for her. Luckily, Jeannette was connected to KIND who helped her find a pro bono attorney – Bill Ecenbarger, who changed Jeannette's life forever.

[Alabama Officials: Kids not taken due to new law](#) (CBS news, Dec 12, 2011). Alabama's governor and the head of the state's child welfare agency say the state's tough new immigration law has not been used to take children away from their illegal immigrant parents despite the earlier predictions and fears of some immigrants. Shortly after the law took effect, many illegal immigrants signed documents allowing friends, relatives and others to take care of their children if they were arrested or deported.

[Supreme Court to look at Arizona immigration law](#) (The Arizona Republic, Dec 12, 2011). The U.S. Supreme Court will hear arguments in the lawsuit challenging the constitutionality of Arizona's immigration law, Senate Bill 1070. Its ruling could impact immigration laws nationwide and push the immigration debate into the spotlight during the final months of the 2012 presidential race.

Read more: <http://www.azcentral.com/arizonarepublic/news/articles/2011/12/12/20111212Supreme-Court-Arizona-immigration-law.html#ixzz1gQjDpmm7>

[Arrests of illegal migrants on U.S.-Mexico border plummet](#) (Washington Post, Dec 3, 2011).

[The Good, the bad, and the undocumented college students – 2011 state and federal developments](#) (Immigration Prof Blog, Dec 9, 2011).

[Funding Benefiting Latinos/Hispanics Holds Steady, Study Finds](#) (Hispanic in Philanthropy, Dec 13, 2011). Over the past decade, U.S. foundation support for programs benefiting Hispanics and Latinos has held steady at approximately 1 percent of overall foundation funding, even as the Hispanic population in the country has grown significantly, a new report from the Foundation Center (<http://foundationcenter.org/>) finds.

[ICE policies leave overburdened foster care system in their wake](#) (San Antonio Currents, Nov 16, 2011)

[Freedom University: Secret School of Undocumented](#) (Video CNN, Dec 13, 2011). In their spare time, university professors run an 'underground academic railroad' for undocumented students banned from Georgia higher education.

[Immigration Enforcement Shatters Families](#) (by Rinku Sen, The Hill, Dec 7, 2011). The federal government appears to be taking a close look at immigration enforcement. Recently, the House Judiciary subcommittee on Immigration Policy and Enforcement conducted a hearing on Secure Communities, a federal program that will soon involve every local police department with the deportation of immigrants. Next week, the Department of Homeland Security will initiate a six-week pilot program in Denver and Baltimore that it says will result in quicker deportations of immigrants who have convictions, while providing relief for those considered low-priority. Unless these programs address the needs of families through clear policy guidelines, tragic separations will continue, especially for those also involved in the child welfare system.

[Read the entire article.](#)

### **Call for Papers**

**Issue of Immigration in Criminal Justice** (The Center on Race, Crime and Justice at John Jay College of Criminal Justice, Deadline for Abstract: January 27, 2012/Conference Date: March 22, 2012). We are soliciting proposals for a conference, sponsored by the Center on Race, Crime and Justice, on the intersection of immigration and criminal justice, to be held at John Jay College of the City University of New York. Scholars from all academic disciplines are invited to take an expansive view of this topic, and submit finished or ongoing research that is substantively or theoretically resonant with the wide variety of issues raised by contemporary public discourse on immigration. Graduate students are also encouraged to apply. One of the conference objectives is to highlight the work of emerging scholars alongside that of more established scholars. In practical terms, this means that approximately half of the conference presentation slots will be reserved for current graduate students. Please send a detailed abstract of approximately 500 words, by email attachment to the Center on Race, Crime and Justice at: rcjcenter@jjay.cuny.edu<mailto:rcjcenter@jjay.cuny.edu>. Please direct any questions to Dan Stageman (dstageman@jjay.cuny.edu) or Shirley Leyro (sleyro@jjay.cuny.edu).

### **Name Change**

[Immigrant Child Advocacy Project \(ICAP\) is now The Young Center for Immigrant Children's Rights](#) (ICAP Press Release). The Immigrant Child Advocacy Project (ICAP) is pleased to announce our new name: The Young Center for Immigrant Children's Rights. The new name reflects the scope and breadth of the organization's work.

### **Legislation**

**The Violence Against Women Act (VAWA)**, first passed in 1994, provides immigration relief options for survivors of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking. VAWA expires in 2011 and is due to be reauthorized again in 2011-2012. VAWA has had a significant impact on ending violence. Since its initial authorization in 1994, reporting of domestic violence has increased as much as 51% and all states have passed laws making stalking a crime and have strengthened rape laws. The number of individuals killed by an intimate partner has decreased by 34% for women and 57% for men. Overall, VAWA saved \$12.6 billion in its first 6 years alone.

How does VAWA make a difference for children and youth? Get more information by contacting the [National Task Force to End Sexual and Domestic Violence Against Women](#). There is also a publication, [Violence Against Women Act – A Toolkit](#), developed by the National Task Force to End Sexual and Domestic Violence Against Women (39 pages) available for advocates.

**DISCLAIMER:** The information in this e-news does not represent the opinion or endorsement of MCWNN. This information is intended to provide general discussion on the topic and should not be used as a substitute for professional advice which takes into consideration specific circumstances of the situation. Those seeking case consultation should seek the services of a competent professional. Much

apologizes in advance for any typographical or grammatical errors. If you are interested in sharing information on FYI from MCWNN, please contact co-editors, Yali Lincroft, MBA, First Focus Policy Consultant, and Lara Bruce, MSW, American Humane Association Child Welfare Specialist.