

**Scope of Work:
Synthesis of Evidence and Documentation on Interventions to
Address Violence against Children in Alternative Care**

The Better Care Network is seeking the services of an individual or team of consultants to prepare a synthesis of evidence and documentation of interventions to address violence against children in alternative care. Please refer to the [scope of work and the candidate/team profile](#) below.

Interested individuals or teams should submit a proposal including the following:

- Cover letter
- CV (CVs of all individuals in the proposed team must be included)
- Hyperlinks¹ to relevant research and documentation undertaken in the past 5 years by each of the individuals included in the proposal
- Approach and methodology for the assignment
- If applying as a team, outline the roles of each individual team member
- Timeline for completion of each of the deliverables outlined in the scope of work leading to the final completion date of 30 September 2026
- Proposed fees for the entire assignment (total fees for the entire team if applying as a team)

Please send complete proposals contact@bettercarenetwork.org by midnight EDT 15 May 2026.

About BCN

The Better Care Network (BCN) is an interagency initiative that facilitates global information exchange and collaboration among the growing number of organizations, governments, community groups, and individuals working to strengthen children's care around the world. BCN's core purpose is to inform and influence global action for children without adequate family care and, as a dynamic interdisciplinary global network of organizations and individuals, share learning from the local to the global level to generate momentum and drive systemic change. BCN convenes the [Transforming Children's Care Collaborative \(TCC\)](#), established as the primary convening mechanism to facilitate sector wide and cross sectoral collaboration to advance children's care.

Consultancy Background

Violence against children (VAC) plays a key role in driving child and family separation and placement of children in alternative care. For those children who have experienced violence,

¹ Please attach copies if hyperlinks are paywalled.

alternative care plays a key role in providing temporary care while working on the reintegration of the child with their family or identifying an appropriate permanent solution. While alternative care is supposed to be safe and protective, violence continues to be prevalent in alternative care settings—whether they are residential or family-based.

In the lead-up to the first Interministerial Conference on Violence against Children (Bogota, 2024), an inter-agency group—the VAC and Care Working Group—was established under the [Transforming Children’s Care Collaborative \(TCC\)](#), bringing together organizations working in child protection, care reform, disability rights, and organizations of care experienced advocates. The group has developed a discussion paper on VAC in the context of care and identified several other advocacy and evidence related priorities, such as identifying key learning and good practices that address different aspects of VAC in the context of children’s care.

There have been several efforts over the last two decades to ensure VAC in the context of children’s care is integrated within global efforts to end all forms of VAC and recognized as a key component of care reform efforts. Research has tended to focus on the prevalence of VAC and its impact on outcomes for children in care. Investments in producing evidence on “what works” to end VAC in care have been more limited, resulting in a significant gap in the evidence on successful and promising interventions aimed at preventing and addressing VAC in the context of care. Yet, violence against children in care continues to be the subject of high-profile commissions of inquiries and investigations on historical as well as current systematic abuses in several high-income countries. Reports of violence in children’s care are also pervasive in assessments of national care systems across all country contexts, despite the well documented challenges in reporting such cases.

There is increasing recognition that the evidence gap related to effective interventions to end VAC in care is undermining advocacy and programmatic efforts to ensure alternative care systems provide safe, nurturing, quality care for children. While it is recognized that research on what works is limited, several governments and non-governmental organizations have implemented specific policy and programmatic interventions that are aimed at addressing VAC in various types of alternative care settings. Organizations also undertake either routine or occasional programmatic documentation and monitoring activities and produce reports of their work, and some such documentation and reporting are available in the public domain. At national and international levels, efforts to address instances of VAC through judicial or quasi-judicial bodies, including human rights mechanisms, have also led to assessments of responses and interventions, highlighting both what works and what doesn’t work, providing important information about the effectiveness of our previous efforts.

Purpose

The main purpose of this consultancy is to identify the existing evidence and literature on interventions designed to address violence against children in alternative care, thus helping fill the significant gap that exists in relation to VAC in the context of care.

It is expected that the consultancy will result in a comprehensive report of recent and ongoing interventions to address violence in alternative care settings, presented using a systematic framework that organizes the interventions by types of care settings, types of violence, types of interventions, and the types of literature. It will provide an analysis of the evidence available on the effectiveness of these interventions, key lessons and efforts to ensure their sustainability and scalability, as well as make recommendations on strategies to address gaps in evidence. The report will also include country case studies highlighting specific interventions as well as documenting examples of national efforts to address VAC in the context of care.

Deliverables/outputs

- **Deliverable 1:** A project implementation plan, outlining key activities and timelines to achieve the following deliverables.
- **Deliverable 2:** A detailed framework to be used to organize, analyze, and present findings – by types of violence, types of care, types of interventions, and types of evidence (primary research, systematic reviews, grey literature, programmatic documentation, reports from commissions of inquiries, judicial bodies, and human rights mechanisms).
- **Deliverable 3:** A checklist outlining the inclusion and exclusion criteria against which identified evidence and literature on interventions will be examined for analysis.
- **Deliverable 4:** A draft report of the evidence of synthesis and recommendations on strategies to address gaps in evidence, and presentation of the report to the VAC and Care Working Group.
- **Deliverable 5:** Final report based on feedback from the VAC and Care Working Group.

All the deliverables including the final report will be presented in English.

Timeline for Completion

30 September 2026

Candidate/team Profile

This assignment requires a high level of expertise in research and documentation related to violence against children, alternative care, and child protection. Each of the individual applicants will hold a minimum of a master's degree in a related field. Given the expertise required, each individual applicant will have at least 5 years of research and documentation experience in relevant areas and a substantive body of relevant published literature. They must be well-versed with international standards and global, regional, and national policy and programming around alternative care, child protection, and violence against children. Experience of undertaking research and documentation work in diverse policy and programming contexts such as humanitarian and development contexts and low-, middle- and high-income contexts will be an asset. Demonstrated familiarity with human rights mechanisms, including national as well as international mechanisms monitoring implementation and reporting on compliance with human rights, including children's rights, and their documentation is also important. High level of

understanding of the intersections between violence against women and violence against children will be an advantage. The assignment requires a high level of expertise in written English as well as expertise in articulating complex technical information in a format easily accessible to policymakers, practitioners, and researchers. Teams with a good mix of command over multiple languages, especially Arabic, English, French, and Spanish will have an advantage.