

Local, Regional and Global Issues: Opportunities for Children's Nurses

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Content

- **Common issues children and young people face**
 - UK, Europe & world
- **Opportunities for Children's nurses to make a difference**



World Health Organisation

Children

- represent the future and underpin a countries prosperity
- vulnerable to malnutrition and infectious diseases

- Nearly 10 million children under the age of five die each year
-more than 1000 every hour



The true measure of a nation's standing is how well it attends to its children-their health and safety, their material security, their education and socialisation, and their sense of being loved, valued and included in the families and societies into which they are born



Common issues children face across the world

- Hazardous labour exploitation
- Physical abuse
- Sexual violence and exploitation
- Police abuse and arbitrary detention of street children
- Orphans and abandoned children without adequate care
- Sexual abuse and trafficking
- Lack of access to education, or substandard education



Recruitment as child soldiers



Georges Gobet / AFP - Getty Images file



War and conflict

In 2019

- 1.6 billion children (69%) were living in a conflict affected country
- 426 million children (more than 1 in 6) were living in a conflict zone

United Nations (2020)



Refugees

- In 2019 there were 79.5 million people forcibly displaced across the world
- Among those were 26 million refugees
- Children make up over half of the world's refugees



Poverty

- 1.3 billion people live on less than \$1/day
- Of the 4.4 billion people living in developing countries:
 - 3/5 lack access to sanitation
 - 1/5 lack clean water
 - 1/5 have no health care
 - 1/5 do not have enough dietary energy & protein
- The world's 225 richest people have a combined wealth equivalent to the annual income of the poorest 2.5 billion (nearly half the world's population)
BMJ 1997; 314: 529



UN Convention on the Rights of the Child: A child's right to safety

- Many lives could be saved by a focus on injury prevention
- Improved child-friendly, emergency health services could also help reduce the consequences of injuries



Injuries to children

- Nearly 90% of injuries to children are the result of “accidents”
- 830,000 children die from such injuries every year
.....**nearly 2300 each day**



Accidents and injuries

- **Road traffic crashes** are the leading cause of death among children ages 10 to 19



Drowning is the leading cause of death from injury among children in many Asian countries

480 children die from drowning every day

Accidents and injuries

- 260 children die from burns every day



- 125 children die from poisoning daily



- 130 children die from falls every day 

Child Maltreatment

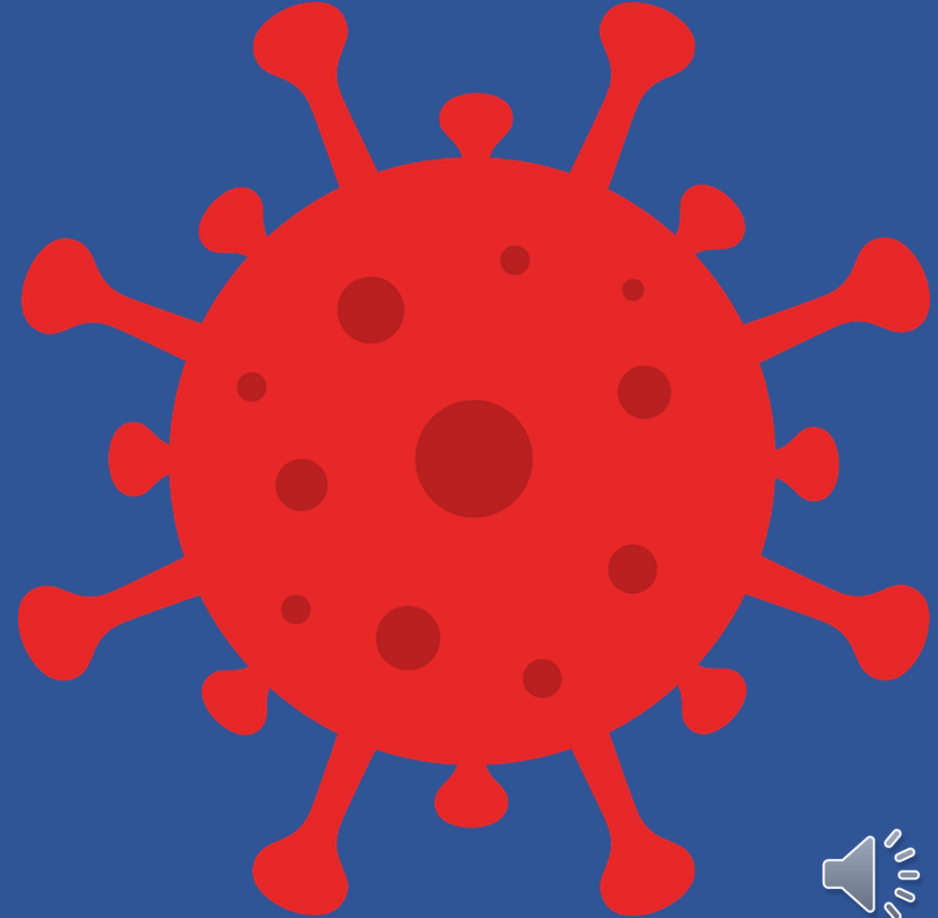
- 25% of all adults report having been physically abused as a child
- 1 in 5 women and 1 in 13 men report having been sexually abused as a child
- 120 million girls and young women under 20 years of age have suffered some form of forced sexual contact.
- Every year, there are an estimated 40 150 homicide deaths in children under 18 years of age (WHO, 2020)



Uncertainty

Global COVID-19 pandemic

- Social inequalities
- Financial impact
- Health of family, friends and neighbours
- Bereavement and loss
- Impact on education and future employment opportunities



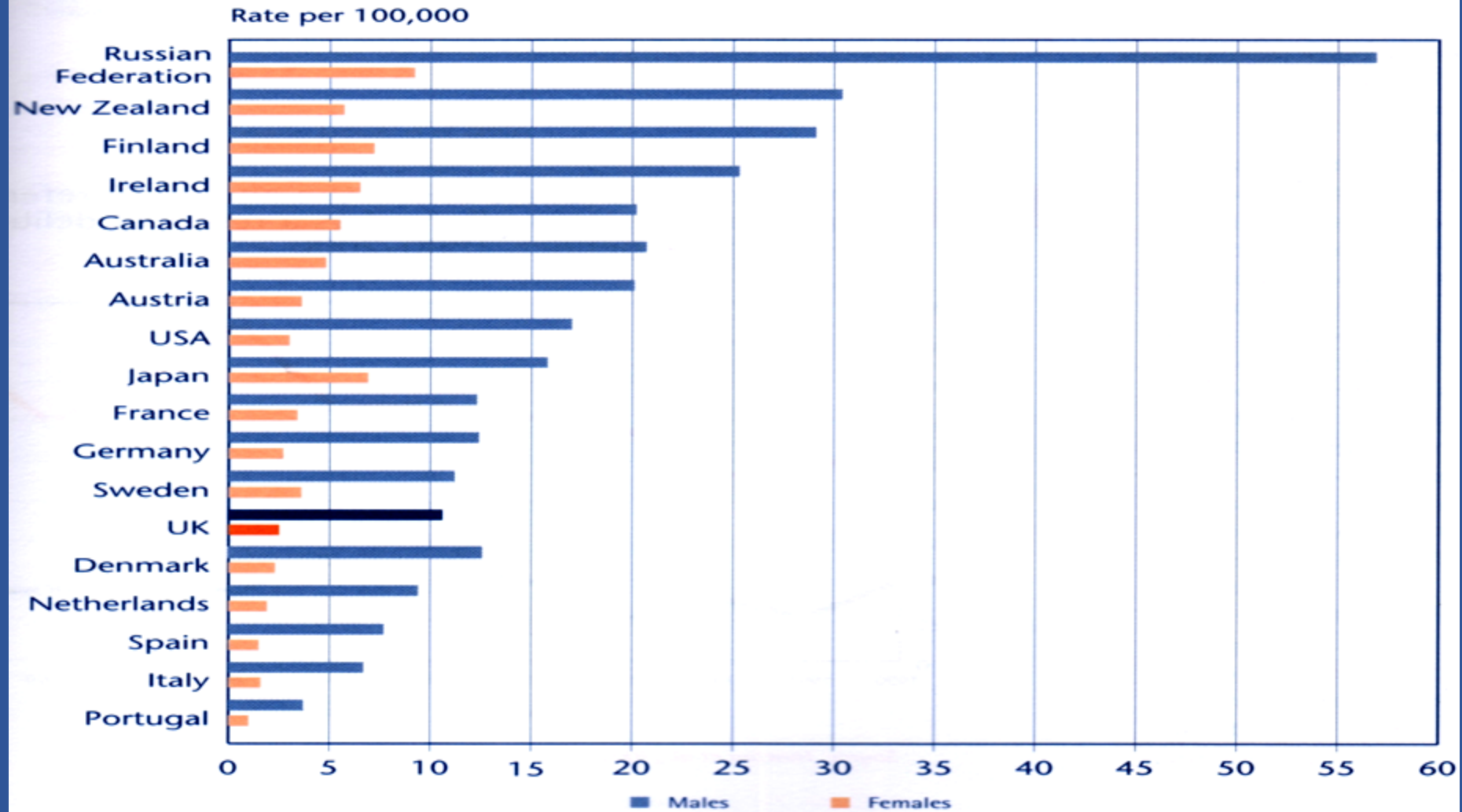
Mental Health Difficulties

- Around 1 in 5 children have a mental health disorder
- About 50% of mental health disorders begin before the age of 14
- Around 1 in 9 people affected by conflict have a moderate or severe mental health disorder
- Those with a severe mental health disorder die 10-20 years before the general population



5.7

Suicide rates among 15-24 year-olds in different countries, 1999-2002 (latest available year)



Source: *Figures and facts about suicide. World Health Organisation. Geneva. 2004.*



Sleep

2021 NHS study found:
-28.7% of 6-10 year olds
-38.4% of 11-16 year olds
-57.1% of 17 to 23 year olds
experienced sleep problems



Across all age groups figures were much higher in those with a probable mental disorder (59.5%, 74.2%, 86.7% respectively).



Social media

- **Cyber bullying**
- **Sexting - Posting of sexually explicit images**
- **Recruitment into gangs and crime**
- **Communication virtually and via social media increased during Coronavirus Pandemic**
- **Police warned that social media was going to be the cause of a rise of knife crime and gang violence once lockdown rules were lifted**



Peer pressure and risk taking



An STI is diagnosed in a young person every 4 minutes in England Campaign to protect young people by using condoms



Body image and eating disorders

- Peer pressure arising from images and commentary via social media apps such as Instagram and Snapchat.
- Research by YMCA found that more than half of young people (52%) regularly worry about the way they look.
- A 2021 NHS study found that since 2017 the proportion of children and young people with possible eating problems increased from
 - 6.7% to 13.0% in 11 to 16 year olds
 - 44.6% to 58.2% in 17 to 19 year olds.

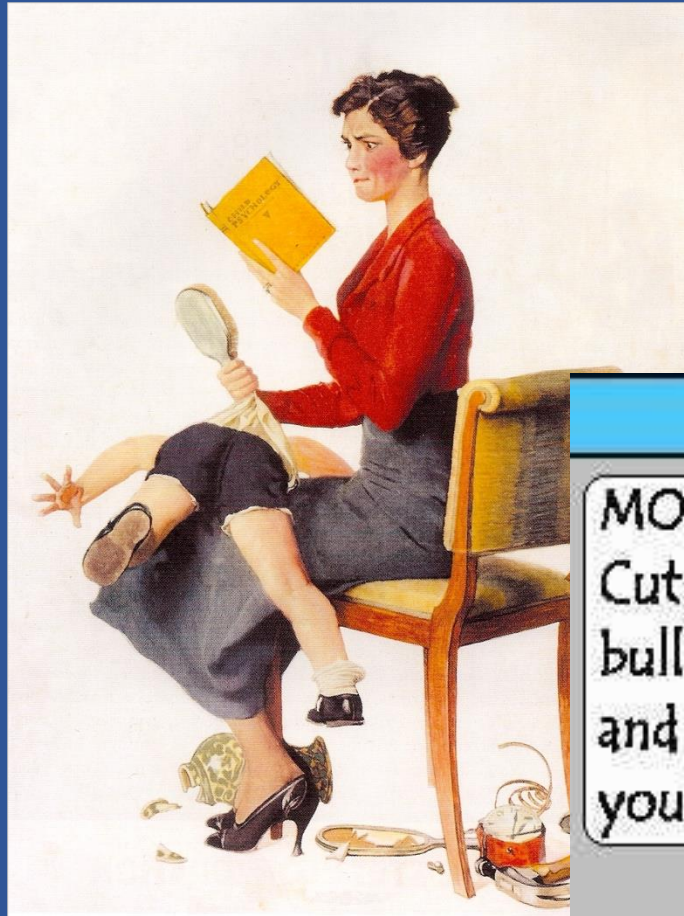


Child obesity

- Worldwide obesity has nearly tripled since 1975
- 39 million children under the age of 5 were overweight or obese in 2020
- Almost half of the children under 5 who were overweight or obese lived in Asia



Influencing practice & changing public attitudes



MOSES... the early years

MOSES !!!
Cut the
bullshit
and take
your bath!



VIEV 7-25



Information and messaging

- Vaccination –Covid19



HPV vaccine

- Children in Hackney ‘at most risk’ of measles outbreak due to lowest jab rate



462718546

Influencing policy & services



Working together to ensure health and well-being for all children and adolescents



Health and well-being start before birth. Every child deserves a good start in life.



Policies and decisions affect everyone's health and well-being.

Adopt policies and interventions across sectors to ensure:



health and well-being in schools & preschools

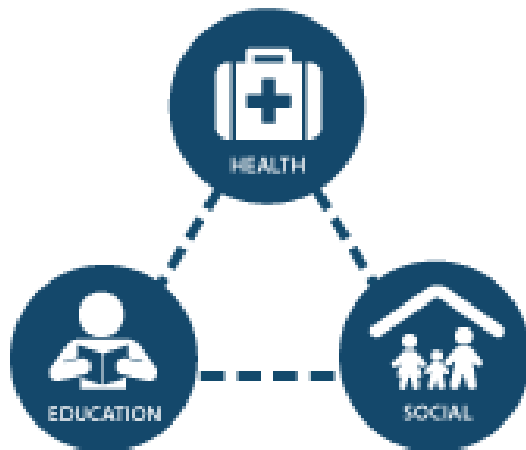


universal social protection floors



good governance for health and well-being

When sectors work together, inequities are reduced and health improves for everyone.



A 2% increase in current spending on early childhood development could pay back up to 9 times in economic and social benefits.

Prevent vulnerable children from falling through the gaps by tackling inequities together—



#together4health

12/2016

Start early. Work together. Act on time.



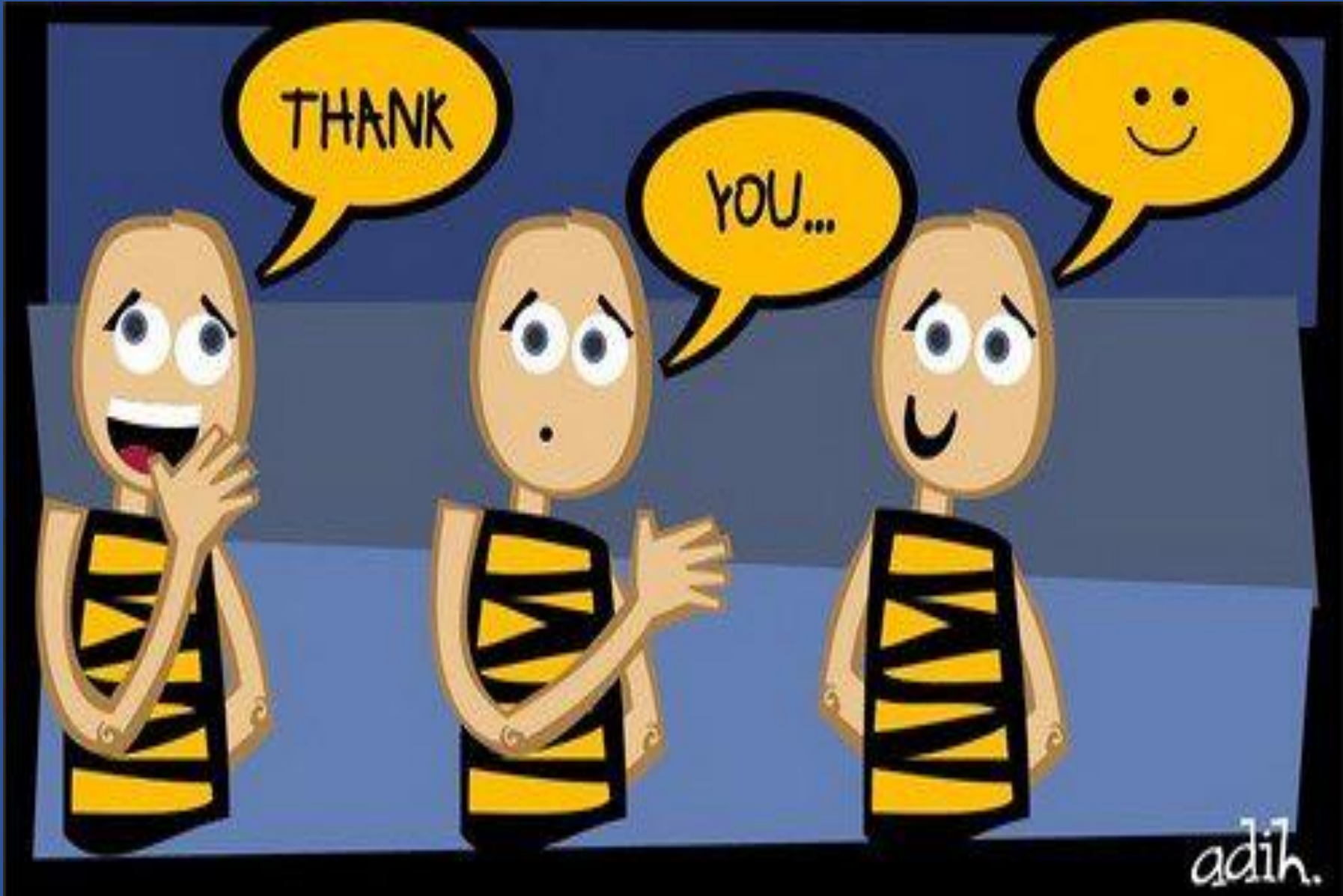
Together – you can make a difference



To accomplish great things we must not only **act**, but also **dream**; not only **plan**, but also **believe**

Anatole France





Discussion & Action points

- How and what worldwide issues influence the life of children and young people in the UK today?
- What do you consider to be the key issues that need to be tackled across the UK to improve the lives of children and young people?
- What might you be able to influence in your locality or area of practice?
- How might you be able to help the Association to address aspects raised locally, regionally or globally?

