

Working Paper Child Marriage

Sponsors: Japan, Sweden

Signatories: Belgium, Estonia, Finland, Norway, Spain,

Basing this upon the 2013 resolution on against child, early, and forced marriages which recognizes child marriage as a human rights violation,

Recognizing work done so far by Member States to combat child marriage in their respective territories,

Fully aware of the various causes contributing to child marriage, including poverty, lack of education, ... ,

Bearing in mind that child marriage is particularly prevalent in rural communities,

Reminds all 193 Member States of the mutual agreement upon the Sustainable Development Goals, one of which is SDG 5.3, aiming to “eliminate all harmful practices, such as child, early and forced marriage”,

1. Urges Member States to adopt legislation raising the minimum age of marriage in accordance to each country’s norms, with the following proposal:
 - a. Member States which do not yet have a minimum age of marriage to implement a minimum age of 16,
 - b. Member States which have a minimum age under 18, but over 15, to implement a minimum age of 18,
 - c. All Member States should implement a minimum age of 18 by 2030, in line with Sustainable Development Goal 5.3;
2. Calls upon Member States which do not yet have a minimum age of marriage to implement a minimum age of 16.
3. Proposes to increase enforcement structures for existing minimum marriage age laws;
4. Encourages the implementation of awareness-raising campaigns on a communal level by:
 - a. informing parents in practicing communities of the risks associated with forcing their children into marriages such as death in childbirth, contracting HIV and other sexually transmitted diseases, as well as being subjected to extreme violence by the hands of their spouses,
 - b. holding regular speeches in poor communities about the economic benefits for families that come with keeping their children in school,
 - c. Work with community leaders to use their influence to spread awareness,;
 - d. creating a fund for education in rural and/or remote communities;
5. Further calls upon Member States to implement the goals set forth in clause 4 by working with non-governmental organizations, such as UNICEF, and that governments help other governments, more specifically by:
 - a. Less Developed Countries receiving financial aid from More Developed Countries to implement country-wide campaigns,
 - b. offering financial incentives to NGOs with established infrastructure to add child marriage awareness to their agendas,
 - c. encouraging MDCs to increase and expand the number and scope of campaigns in LDCs;

6. Supports measures to empower children – and especially girls – by means of:
 - a. skills workshops
 - b. education
7. Endorses education not only for girls, but for all children, to create a basis for a future society that is uniformly in support of SDG 5.3;
8. Recommends the introduction of guaranteed economic opportunities for girls and their families outside of marriage, for example through:
 - a. Micro loans given to women in poor communities to give them a chance to create an income independent from their husbands and to provide a positive example for the younger generations,
 - b. Further financial, or other relevant incentives (for example
9. Further encourages international cooperation to fight human trafficking and corruption which contribute to higher rates of child marriage;
10. Affirms the will of the international community to work with local religious leaders to find ways around child marriage;
11. Further urges states to allow the creation of safe havens by NGOs for children trying to escape forced marriage in :