

GIRLS NOT BRIDES STRATEGY



Member Reference Group for the strategy development process Terms of Reference

Background

As a global partnership, *Girls Not Brides* believes that social change cannot succeed without the engagement and action of its members, as evidenced by the organisation's [Mission Statement](#) and [Membership Principles](#). It is only through members' active and diverse contributions that *Girls Not Brides* will achieve its goals and objectives. It is therefore important that the knowledge and insights of *Girls Not Brides* members are informing the development of the partnership's new global strategy for 2017-2020.

Purpose of a Member Reference Group

A Member Reference Group will provide strategic guidance and advice on the development of *Girls Not Brides'* new global partnership strategy for 2017-2020. Please note that this group is being established to play an ongoing advisory role to the *Girls Not Brides* secretariat during the partnership strategy development process, and does not have a governance function. With this in mind, the group will be established to:

- Ensure that the partnership strategy development process is informed by the different perspectives and approaches of civil society organisations working in the field of child marriage, thereby guaranteeing that the partnership strategy remains relevant, creative and solutions-oriented.
- Provide input into both the process and content of strategic planning that:
 - Pinpoints useful opportunities in the external environment,
 - Reviews how well *Girls Not Brides* addresses current needs of its members and the wider field of child marriage,
 - Identifies the constraints that *Girls Not Brides* is currently facing,
 - Helps to formulate plans and tools to support the implementation of the priorities for *Girls Not Brides* for the period 2017 to 2020,
 - Provides input into the draft partnership strategy and related papers.
- Strengthen member understanding, ownership of, and buy-in to, the 2017-2020 partnership strategy.

Responsibilities of the Member Reference Group

- Working with the project consultants and the *Girls Not Brides* partnership team, provide input and advice on the approach and methods to be used in the strategic planning process.
- Provide suggestions for key stakeholders to include in the process and effective approaches for engagement.
- Contribute to priority information to be obtained and reviewed, and input to the analysis of information.
- Provide input and analysis on specific draft materials and make recommendations, as appropriate.
- Champion the strategic planning process, with a pro-active (time-limited) role, in wider membership engagement and during the dissemination of the final partnership strategy.

The *Girls Not Brides* secretariat will support the Member Reference Group to carry out its responsibilities, ensuring that recommendations made by the Group are informing the ongoing strategy development process. The *Girls Not Brides* secretariat is also responsible for notifying the Member Reference Group about the outcomes of their recommendations and eventual decisions made.

Membership criteria

The membership of the Member Reference Group shall consist of the following:

- Up to 8 individuals from *Girls Not Brides* member organisations who, as a whole:
 - Are geographically diverse,
 - Engage in a range of programmatic approaches across a range of sectors (e.g., research, advocacy, education, child protection),
 - Engage in a range of levels of action (global, regional, national, community),
 - Have differing lengths of membership within *Girls Not Brides*.
- Criteria on which the individuals will be selected includes:
 - Ability to think strategically and provide useful insights based upon their expertise,
 - Ability to bring diverse perspectives to the process,
 - Ability to make the necessary time commitment for the duration of the partnership strategy development process,
 - Ability and willingness to play a role in championing the strategy and supporting with its eventual dissemination,
 - Ability to work collaboratively with a diverse range of actors, and to respect and value inputs of a wide range of stakeholders, including youth advocates.
- At least 1 member of the group will be bilingual and reflect Francophone perspectives.
- At least 1 member of the group will be a co-chair/leading member of a *Girls Not Brides* National Partnership.
- At least 1 member of the group will be a youth advocate.

Members will be chosen through a process of targeted outreach by the *Girls Not Brides* secretariat, based upon the selection criteria outlined above.

Term and working modalities

The Member Reference Group has a time-limited term and shall meet regularly throughout the process from February 2016 to September 2016 (more detailed timings will be outlined at the first meeting). There will also be opportunities to be involved in the launch of the partnership strategy and to champion it during early 2017. Engagement will consist of the following:

- Input into draft documents and reports via email
- Participation in conference calls/skype meetings/webinars

Please note that members of the group will not receive any financial remuneration.