

Key Global Commitments on Child Marriage



ICPD and CSW

- International Conference on Population and Development, Programme of Action, 1994
 - Call to end child marriage

- Commission on Status of Women, 2013 & 2014
 - Calls to end child marriage



International Conference on Population and Development

At the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD), governments adopted a 20-year Programme of Action which provided a rights based approach to development. The Programme of Action set out to provide universal access to family planning and sexual and reproductive health services and reproductive rights, promote gender equality and support sustainable development. The Programme of Action also included a call to end child marriage:

- *'4.21 Governments should strictly enforce laws to ensure that marriage is entered into only with the free and full consent of the intending spouses. In addition, Governments should strictly enforce laws concerning the minimum legal age of consent and the minimum age at marriage and should raise the minimum age at marriage where necessary. Governments and non-governmental organizations should generate social support for the enforcement of laws on the minimum legal age at marriage, in particular by providing educational and employment opportunities.'*

Reference: <http://www.unfpa.org/sites/default/files/pub-pdf/ICPD%20PoA%20English.pdf>

The ICPD Beyond 2014 global report of the Secretary General and Executive Director of UNFPA is a culmination of the ICPD review process. The report contains a section on child marriage which outlines causes, consequences, and commitments made to address child marriage since the Programme of Action and calls on states to take action:

- *'States should preserve the dignity and rights of women and girls by eradicating all harmful practices, including child, early and forced marriages through integrated multi-sector strategies including the universal adoption and enforcement of laws that criminalize marriage below age 18, and through widespread campaigns to create awareness around the harmful health and life consequences of early marriages, supporting national targets and incentives to eliminate this practice within a generation.'*

Reference: http://icpdbeyond2014.org/uploads/browser/files/93632_unfpa_eng_web.pdf

Commission on Status of Women

Agreed conclusions from 57th session (March 2013):

- *'Review, enact and strictly enforce laws and regulations concerning the minimum legal age of consent and the minimum age for marriage, raising the minimum age for marriage where necessary, and generate social support for the enforcement of these laws in order to end the practice of child, early and forced marriage'*

Agreed conclusions from 58th session (March 2014):

- *'31. The Commission welcomes international momentum to address the issue of child, early and forced marriage. The Commission recognizes that child, early and forced marriage is a harmful practice, and notes that its continued prevalence, among other factors, has slowed the achievement of several of the Millennium Development Goals for women and girls.'*
- *'(m) Eliminate all harmful practices, including child, early and forced marriage and female genital mutilation, by reviewing, adopting, enacting and enforcing laws and regulations that prohibit such practices, creating awareness around their harmful health consequences and generating social support for the enforcement of these laws.'*

Reference: <http://www.unwomen.org/en/csw/outcomes#57>

UN Human Rights Council

- Procedural resolution on child, early and forced marriage, 2013
 - OHCHR report, panel 2014
- Joint statement, 2014
- Substantive resolution, expected June 2015



Human Rights Council resolution 24/23 “Strengthening efforts to prevent and eliminate child, early and forced marriage: challenges, achievements, best practices and implementation gaps” (September 2013):

- The resolution had over 100 co-sponsors.
- It called for a report on child, early and forced marriage by the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) and a panel at the Human Rights Council in 2014.
- The resolution is available here: <http://bit.ly/1cYR6hc>

The substantive resolution expected in June, is being led by Italy and Sierra Leone.

UN General Assembly

- Procedural resolution on child, early and forced marriage, 2013
 - Panel

- Substantive resolution on child, early and forced marriage, 2014



GIRLS NOT BRIDES

UN General Assembly Resolution 68/148, “Child early and forced marriage” (November 2013):

- The resolution had over 100 co-sponsors.
- It called for a panel on child, early and forced marriage at the UN General Assembly.
- Available here: <http://bit.ly/1bi5eRq>

UN General Assembly Resolution 69/156, “Child, early and forced marriage” (November 2014):

- The resolution had 116 co-sponsors from a broad, cross-regional group of countries.
- The resolution urges states to enact legal frameworks and develop comprehensive and coordinated strategies.
- The resolution also recognises the importance of retaining the target to end child, early and forced marriage in the final post-2015 development framework.
- The resolution is biennial.
- Available here: <http://bit.ly/1Ghpldo>

Post-2015 Development Framework

- Target on child, early and forced marriage
 - Will mobilise international support and funding to national efforts
- Girl Summit Charter



Target on child, early and forced marriage:

- The target was supported in the UN Secretary General's 2013 report on the Millennium Development Goals and the report of the High-Level Panel of Eminent Persons on the Post-2015 Development Agenda to the Secretary General.
- The target was proposed by Pakistan in the Open Working Group (OWG) on Sustainable Development Goals.
- The OWG proposed target 5.3 "eliminate all harmful practices, such as child, early and forced marriage and female genital mutilations". The OWG's report has been adopted by the UN General Assembly and forms the basis of the post-2015 negotiations.
- The Open Working Group's report is available here: <http://bit.ly/1FQXmnx>

Girl Summit Charter, 2014:

- The Charter was adopted at the first-ever Girl Summit on child marriage and female genital mutilation.
- It calls for the inclusion of child, early and forced marriage in the post-2015 development framework.
- The Charter was signed by over 40 governments.
- Available here: <http://bit.ly/1yRcUVM>

Resources

- ICPD Programme of Action <http://bit.ly/1yRcrmu>
- CSW agreed conclusions 2014 and 2013 <http://bit.ly/1PfUI1s>
<http://bit.ly/1DAdWRx>
- Human Rights Council Resolution, 2013 <http://bit.ly/1cYR6hc>
- UN General Assembly Resolutions, 2013 and 2014
<http://bit.ly/1bi5eRq> <http://bit.ly/1Ghpldo>
- Open Working Group Proposal <http://bit.ly/1FQXmnx>
- Girl Summit Charter <http://bit.ly/1yRcUVM>



A comprehensive list of global and regional commitments (with hyperlinks) is available in the resources section of the post-2015 advocacy toolkit.