



GIRLS NOT BRIDES

The Global Partnership
to End Child Marriage

Ban Ki-moon
Secretary-General of the United Nations
United Nations Headquarters
New York, NY 10017

1 October 2014

Re: Open letter regarding child, early and forced marriage in the post-2015 agenda

Dear Mr. Secretary-General,

We write to you as 176 member organisations of *Girls Not Brides: The Global Partnership to End Child Marriage*. **We urge you to emphasise in your upcoming synthesis report that ending child, early and forced marriage must be comprehensively and strategically addressed in the post-2015 development framework.** We welcome the inclusion of 'end child marriage' as a national target in the Report of the High-Level Panel of Eminent Persons on the Post-2015 Development Agenda. Furthermore, we welcome the outcome document of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals, which includes a target to end child, early and forced marriage under Goal 5 ('gender equality and empower all women and girls'). We urge that a strong target on child, early and forced marriage be included in the final set of Sustainable Development Goals.

We want to thank you for your crucial leadership in creating a better world for women and girls and acknowledge your valuable efforts to draw attention to the need to end child marriage – including at the lunch that you co-hosted with Archbishop Desmond Tutu during the World Economic Forum in January 2012, your leadership during the first International Day of the Girl Child in 2012 which focused on child marriage, and your August 2013 report to the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals which said that the practice of child marriage must be ended everywhere.

As you know, child, early and forced marriage is a development and rights challenge that robs 15 million girls every year of their future and holds them – and their countries – back from achieving their full potential. The practice has impeded the achievement of six of the eight Millennium Development Goals. There is growing recognition that child, early and forced marriage must be addressed in the next development agenda if we want to achieve the new Sustainable Development Goals, not only in the area of gender equality (proposed Goal 5), but also in the fields of poverty (proposed Goal 1), nutrition (proposed Goal 2), infant and maternal health (proposed Goal 3), education (proposed Goal 4), inclusive economic growth (proposed Goal 8) and reduction of inequality (proposed Goal 10).

Ending child, early and forced marriage is a concrete and measurable target that will contribute significantly to the achievement of gender equality while also accelerating efforts to achieve a safe, healthy and prosperous future for all. We encourage you to make clear in your report that the final development framework for the coming 15 years should mandate that programmes to end child, early and forced marriage be instigated and prioritised by all member states if we are to achieve the next set of global development objectives.

We thank you once again for your leadership. We look forward to continuing to work together to create a world without child marriage – which will be a world in which everyone will be better educated, healthier, more prosperous and more equal.

Sincerely yours,

Aamaa Milan Kendra (AMK), Nepal

Action Aid International

Action for Community Development, Uganda

Afghan Women Skills Development Center, Afghanistan

AIDS Accountability International, Southern Africa

Alliance Against Modern Slavery

Alliances for Africa, Nigeria

Amani Initiative, Uganda

Amref Health Africa, Kenya

Association Dappui et d'Eveil Pugsada (ADEP), Burkina Faso

Association de Lutte contre les Violences faites aux Femmes, Cameroon

Association des Volontaires pour l'Encadrement et l'Intégration des Filles-Mères, Chad

Association Jeunesse Anti-Clivage (AJAC), Chad

Association Malienne Pour la Survie au Sahel, Mali

Association of European Parliamentarians with Africa (AWEPA)

Association of Media Women in Kenya, Kenya

Association pour la Promotion de la Femme et de l'Enfant (ASSOPROFEN), Mali

Association pour la promotion du genre et développement humain durable, Cameroon

AWAZ Foundation Pakistan: Centre for Development Services, Pakistan

Bedari, Pakistan

BHORE, Nepal

Blue Veins, Pakistan

Breakthrough, India

Cameroon League for Development, Cameroon

CARE Ethiopia, Ethiopia

CARE International

Case and Diapalé Khaléti, Sénégal

Cellule de Liaison des Associations Féminines (CELIAF), Chad

Center for Reproductive Rights

Centre for Development and Population Activities (CEDPA), India

Centre for Girls and Interaction (CEGI Malawi), Malawi

Centre For Initiative Against Human Trafficking (CIAHT), Ghana

Centre for Women's Development and Research, India

Chanchal Jana Kalyan Samity, India

Child Aid Uganda (CHAU), Uganda

Child Workers in Nepal Concerned Centre (CWIN), Nepal

ChildHelp Inc. Liberia, Liberia

Children and Women Trust, Pakistan

Childrens Dignity Forum (CDF), Tanzania

CHOICE for Youth and Sexuality

Civil Society and Human Rights Network, Afghanistan

Civil Society Forum for Child Rights in Mozambique (ROSC), Mozambique

Comité Inter-Africain sur les pratiques traditionnelles affectant la santé des femmes et des enfants, Burkina Faso

Cooperation for Peace and Development (CPD), Afghanistan

Coordination nationale des associations des jeunes pour la lutte contre le Sida (CONAJELUS), Chad

CULP - Centre for Unfolding Learning Potentials, India

Dasra, India

Defence for Children International Sierra Leone (DCI - SL), Sierra Leone

Democratic Commission for Human Development, Pakistan

Development Institutions' Network, Pakistan

Educate the Children, USA/Nepal

Egyptian Foundation for Advancement of the Childhood Condition, Egypt

Empower People, India

Empowerment and Development Centre for Africa (EDCA Cameroon), Cameroon

Equality Now

Equilibres & Populations, France

Every Mother Counts, USA

EveryChild, Malawi

Expanding Lives, USA

Flying Broom Women Communication and Research Association, Turkey

Forum for African Women Educationalists (FAWE) Gambia, Gambia

Foundation for Children's Rights, Malawi

Foundation for Youth Empowerment, Malawi

G(irls)20, Canada

Girl Child Network Sierra Leone Chapter, Sierra Leone

Girl Up, UN Foundation, USA

Good Living Initiative, Nigeria

Grandmother Project, Senegal

Grassroots Health Organisation of Nigeria, Nigeria

GreeneWorks, USA

Health And Education Alternative Development Studies (HEALDS), India

Help Lesotho, Lesotho

Hope Foundation, Uganda

Human Dignity Foundation

Human Right Movement "Bir Duino-Kyrgyzstan", Kyrgyzstan

Independent Yemen Group, UK

Institute of Health Management Pachod, India

Instituto Promundo, Brazil

Inter-African Committee on Traditional Practices, Ethiopia

Inter-Confessional AIDS Network (INTERNAP), Cameroon

International Center for Research on Women

International Child Development Initiatives (ICDI), The Netherlands

International Children's Center, Turkey

International Women's Health Coalition, USA

Iranian & Kurdish Women's Rights Organisation (IKWRO), UK

Iraqi Al-Amal Association, Iraq

Isa Wali Empowerment Initiative, Nigeria

Jaag Welfare Movement, Pakistan

Joy for Children, Uganda

Kaana Foundation for Outreach Programs, Uganda

Karma Nirvana, UK

Kiota Women Health and Development Organisation, Tanzania

KMG- Ethiopia, Ethiopia

L'Association des Jeunes pour le Bien-être Familiale de Bogoya (AJBFB), Burkina Faso

LEAD TCHAD, Chad

Leadership through Education and Action Foundation Society, India

Life Intervention Project, Nigeria

Light Ethiopia, Ethiopia

M.V.Foundation, India

MAMTA - Health Institute for Mother and Child, India

Men's Resources International, USA

National Integrated Development Association (NIDA-Pakistan), Pakistan

Nav Bharat Jagriti Kendra, India

Network of Entrepreneurship & Economic Development (NEED), India

Nkumu Fed Fed, Cameroon

Norwegian Church Aid (NCA) ou Aide de l'Eglise Norvégienne (AEN), Mali

ONG Generation Femme du Troisieme Millenaire, Cote d'Ivoire

Organisation of African Youth, South Africa

Organization for Development and Peace (ODP), Pakistan

Organization for Public Interest, Pakistan

Organization for the Development of women and Children Ethiopia (the former EGLDAM), Ethiopia

PADARE Enkundleni: Men's Forum on Gender, Zimbabwe

Parliamentarians for Global Action

Peace Foundation, Pakistan

Plan International

PNWO | Parveen Nadeem Welfare Organization, Pakistan

Population Action International

Population Council

Population Foundation of India, India

Population Matters, UK

Population Media Center, USA

Programme Intégré de Santé de Reproduction et Familial -PISRF, Democratic Republic of Congo

Promundo-US

Protect & Save the Children, Malaysia

Public Association Women's League of Creative Initiative, Kazakhstan

READ Global, USA

Red Cross Helpline About Forced Marriage and Female Genital Mutilation, Norway

Research Institute for Women, Peace & Security (RIWPS), Afghanistan

Réseau des animateurs pour l'éducation des communautés (RESAEC), Cameroon

Right to Play Mali, Mali

Saare Tabitha, Centre de Promotion Sociale des Filles, Cameroon

SAFE Society, India

Sarathi Development Foundation, India

Seeds to Sew International, Kenya

Service for Peace Sierra Leone, Sierra Leone

Seventeen Active Youth Organization, Malawi

Shadhika, India

Shariatpur Development Society (SDS), Bangladesh

Shohratgarh Environmental Society (SES), India

Society for the Protection of the Rights of the Child (SPARC), Pakistan

Society For Women And Aids In Africa, Niger

Solidarité des Femmes Burundaises pour la Lutte contre le Sida et le Paludisme au Burundi, Burundi

Sudanese Organization for Research and Development, Sudan

Sujag Sansar Organization, Pakistan

Sustainable Population Australia, Australia

Terre des Femmes - Human Rights for Women, Germany

The AHA Foundation, USA

"The Awakening", Pakistan

The Coexist Initiative, Kenya

The Hunger Project, USA

The Red Elephant Foundation, India

The Royal Commonwealth Society, Pan-Commonwealth

Tostan, Senegal

Turkish Network Against Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children, Turkey

Unchained At Last, USA

URMUL Trust, India

US National Committee for UN Women, USA

Vikalp Sansthan, India

Vision for Culture, Learning and Peace, Sudan

Voice for Change (VFC) South Sudan, South Sudan and Sudan

Voice of Grace Foundation, Cameroon

Voice of the Children, Malaysia

Voix de Femmes, Burkina Faso

WeForest, Belgium

Women and Law in Southern Africa (WLSA), Zambia

Women in Alternative Action (WAA), Cameroon

Women Power Connect, India

Women United for Economic Empowerment,
Nigeria

Women Win, The Netherlands

Women's Initiative for Self-Actualization,
Nigeria

World Vision Bangladesh, Bangladesh

World Vision Zambia, Zambia

World YWCA

Your Hope is Remaining Trust, India

Youth Association for Development, Pakistan

Youth Harvest Foundation Ghana, Ghana