



THE POWER OF COLLECTIVE ACTION

Progress Towards Ending Child Marriage in 2024

Girls Not Brides
Impact Report

Welcome from our CEO

This past year, from Guatemala to Mozambique, I had the privilege of meeting inspiring members and witnessing bold progress and growing momentum to end child, early and forced marriage and unions (CEFMU). But the year was not without its challenges.



Together, we continued to confront the rise of anti-rights movements, growing economic instability, and a shrinking civic space. Amidst these global headwinds, the need to act collectively has become even more apparent, and we appreciate every member, partner and ally who collaborated with us this year.

With 1,446 members in 94 countries, our role is clear: to strengthen and connect national partnerships, drive policy and funding commitments, and generate and share evidence to guide action. Our work builds and sustains the global, regional and national ecosystems needed to secure lasting change.

Collective power in action: From Nepal to Guatemala, Burkina Faso to Uganda, we supported national and state-level coalitions, providing strategic, financial and leadership support. In Malawi, we celebrated the launch of a new National Strategy to End Child Marriage, and in Nepal, our National Partnership

ensured community voices were included in national policymaking.

A global convenor for change: We continued to play a pivotal convening role, bringing together and working collaboratively with our members and partners. In 2024, we witnessed major funding and political breakthroughs, unlocking millions of dollars to end child marriage and support adolescent girls, while firmly securing child marriage as a priority on government agendas around the world.

A highly effective knowledge hub: By sharing the latest evidence, we continue to ensure programming, policy, and investment are grounded in the latest learning. In 2024, we filled vital knowledge gaps on ending child marriage in conflict and crisis-affected settings and saw the impact of legal reform.

Girls Not Brides exists to connect the dots, amplifying the voices of those leading change. In a complex, shifting world, we are building the only global partnership dedicated to ending child marriage—and building a future where every girl is safe, educated, and free to decide her own path.

If we are going to end child marriage, we all need to rise and work within our circles of influence to make a better world for girls. The onus is on us. Thank you for standing with us.

Dr Faith Mwangi-Powell
CEO, *Girls Not Brides*

Welcome from our Board Chair

More than 650 million women and girls alive today were married as children. Unless we change course dramatically, another 100 million will be married before 2030, the year the world committed to ending this practice. That number isn't just staggering. It's unacceptable. And it demands more from all of us.



Still, I remain hopeful. Not because the problem has gotten smaller—it hasn't. But because more people are refusing to look away. From grassroots movements to global platforms, we're seeing the momentum grow. More leaders are recognising that ending child marriage isn't a niche or side issue; it's central to achieving justice, economic growth, gender equality, and sustainable development. *Girls Not Brides* is playing a critical role in making that connection impossible to ignore.

The world has changed, and our approach must continuously evolve with it. The challenges girls face today are more complex, stemming from overlapping crises, growing inequality, shrinking civic space, and the breakneck speed of technological change. The old playbook won't cut it. As we move into a new chapter, we're asking ourselves: Are we listening well enough?

Are we bold enough in the way we lead, fund, and partner? Are we designing solutions that truly meet the scale of the problem?

This moment calls for more than just incremental progress. It demands imagination, courage, and a willingness to challenge assumptions, especially our own. Our upcoming strategy is an opportunity not just to refine our direction, but to rethink how we lead, what we prioritise, and how we show up in a world that's changing faster than ever. To centre the girls and communities who have always led the way. To bring in new voices. To speak plainly about the political will and resources this work requires, and to build the partnerships that can make it happen.

This work isn't theoretical for me. My grandmother was married at 12 and never had the chance to learn to read or write. My mother was married at 15. Their stories shaped mine and remind me why this work is so important. Every girl deserves to choose her future. That should not be revolutionary.

I'm proud to chair a Board that is not afraid to lean into complexity, to listen deeply, and to hold ourselves accountable to the people we exist to serve. A different future is possible; one where every girl is safe, educated, and free. We have the responsibility to build it.

Dr Alaa Murabit
Chair of the Board of Trustees, *Girls Not Brides*

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Notes on language:

Child marriage: We use the term “child marriage” to refer to all forms of child, early and forced marriage and unions where at least one party is under the age of 18. In this, we include all girls and adolescents affected by the practice, whether in formal or informal unions, and acknowledge the culturally specific understandings of childhood and development, and the complex relationship between age, consent and force.

Gender-transformative approaches (GTA) aim to promote gender equality by fostering critical examination of gender roles, norms and dynamics, recognising and strengthening positive norms that support equality and promoting the relative position of women, girls and marginalised groups.



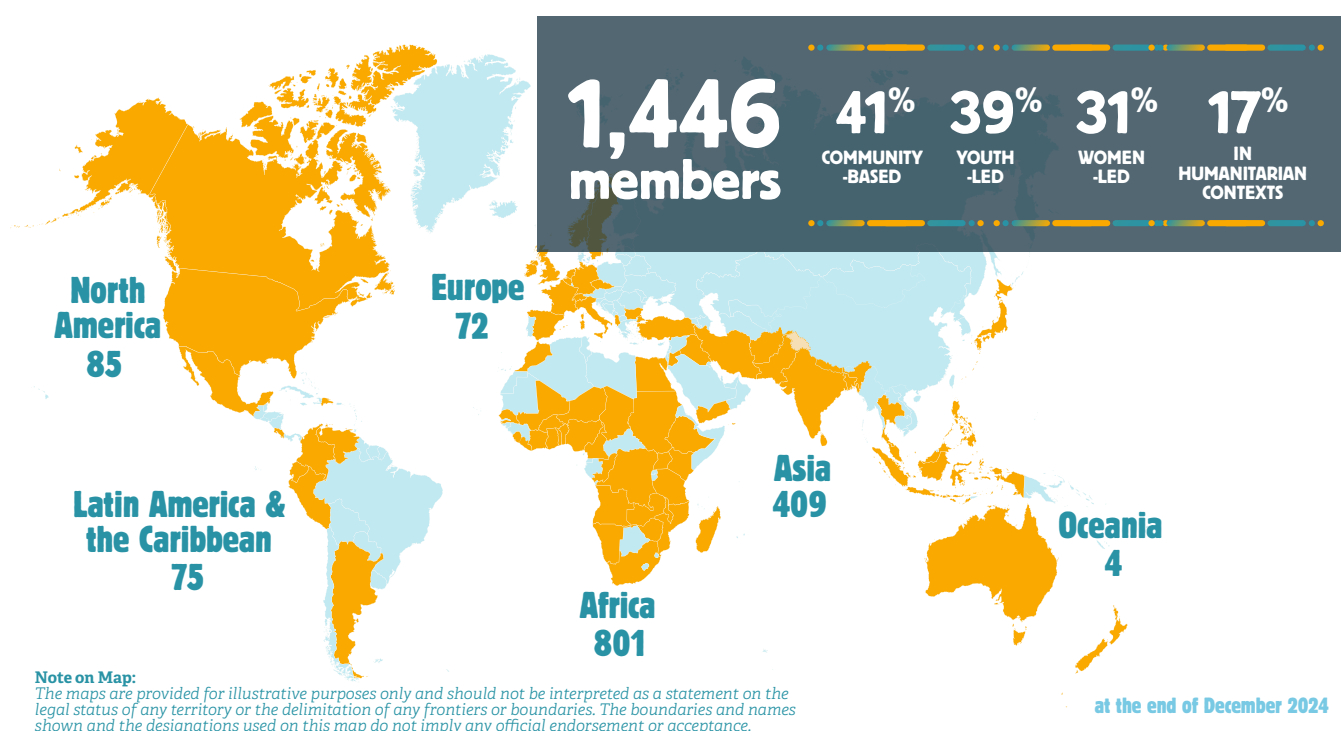
Movement Building

Ending child marriage requires collective action

When diverse organisations and local leaders come together, they can drive lasting change for girls. That's why we strengthen partnerships and build capacity to support members to lead influential national movements. We support civil society partnerships and coalitions through deep, sustained engagement, supporting them to advocate together, shift norms and create community change.

We build and sustain a vibrant, well-equipped global partnership to end child marriage

Girls Not Brides is the world's largest and only global partnership dedicated solely to ending child marriage. By the end of **2024**, we had **1,446 members** in **94 countries**, with **37 new members** joining from women-led, indigenous-led, youth-led and community-based organisations. Our members work across sectors, including health, education, economic livelihoods, violence and justice, ensuring a comprehensive approach to ending child marriage.



Meet some of our new members for 2024

Nosotras para Ellas, A.C.

Mexico

Nosotras para Ellas, A.C. is a women-led national organisation dedicated to the prevention and eradication of gender-based violence in Mexico.



Alsama Lebanon

Alsama is a community-based, women-led organisation which sets up schools, sports hubs and social enterprises in Lebanon's refugee camps and works to end child marriage through education, community outreach, and psycho-social support.



Rural Women Peace Link

Kenya

Rural Women Peace Link mobilise, influence and promote the participation of grassroots women, youth, and marginalised groups in peacebuilding, community governance and development through partnerships, collaboration and networking.



Baliga Trust India

Baliga Trust works with marginalised and disadvantaged groups to promote women's empowerment, education, livelihood, child rights and protection, health and sanitation, with a vision of an egalitarian society for all.



The *Girls Not Brides* Secretariat is the backbone to this vibrant partnership, coordinating, supporting and sustaining our members to be better connected and equipped to drive change.

Our members consistently highlight the value of being part of the global partnership, with our 2024 membership survey revealing that:

70%

**of members surveyed
had viewed or read
a learning product at
least once.**

Of these, 97%

**have applied the *Girls
Not Brides* learning
product(s) to their work.**

*209 members surveyed.

“

“This membership has helped us to access child marriage-related global resources and increased our visibility among national stakeholders as well as recognition at the local level.”

“

“The funding resources shared by *Girls Not Brides* have been immensely helpful to our organisation. Through these resources, we have successfully secured five grants, which have significantly contributed to advancing our work to end child marriage.”

“

“The materials, such as infographics, reports, and videos, are clear, well-researched, and practical, enabling us to tailor our programming to address the unique challenges in Dzaleka Refugee Camp.”

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“Every meeting or webinar that I've engaged in, *Girls Not Brides* has become a stepping stone towards making positive impact in our community.”

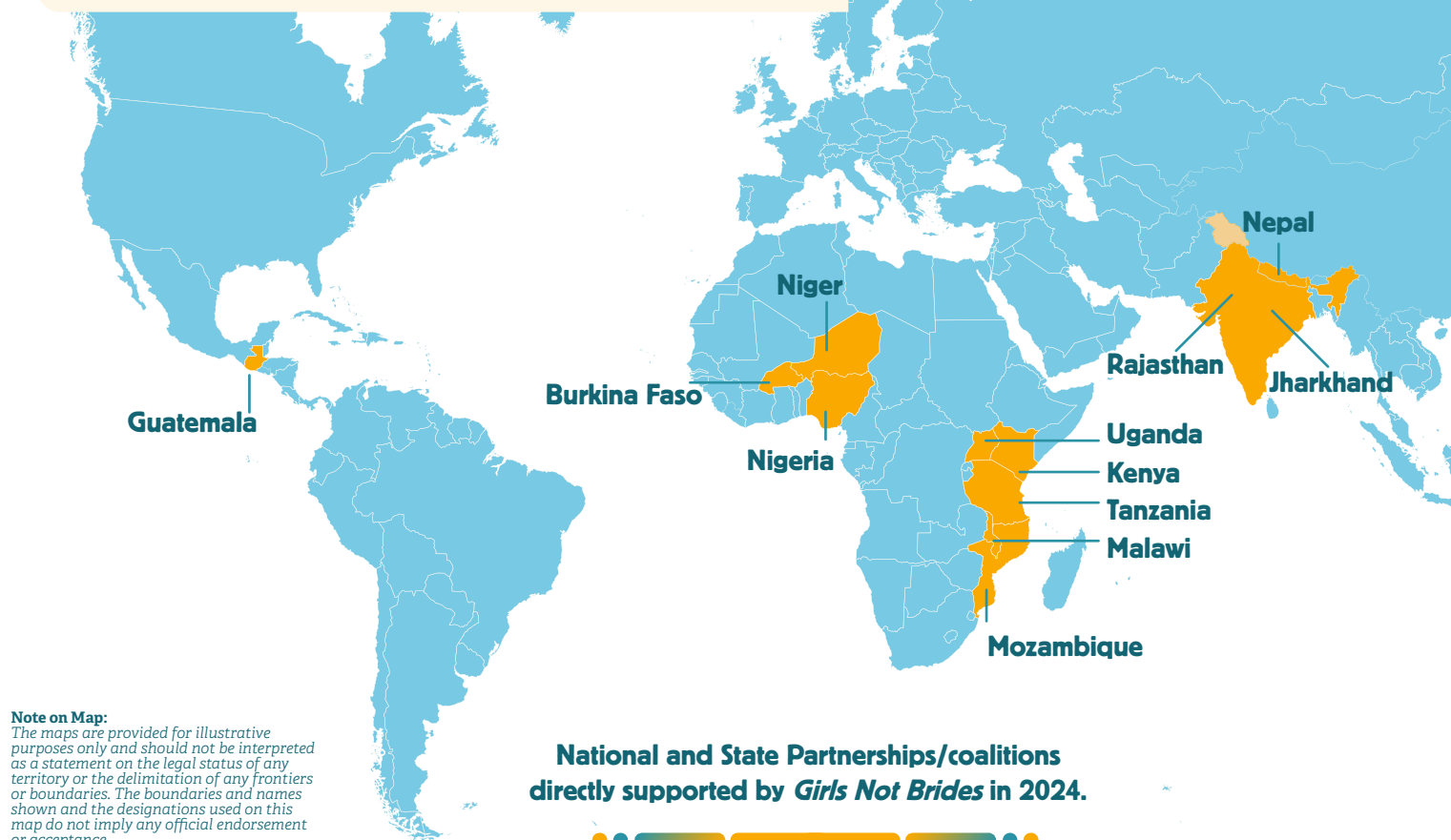
We invest in and strengthen national networks of civil society organisations who unite to drive change

In 2024, *Girls Not Brides* provided **£738,161 of direct financial grants** to National and State Partnerships and coalitions. This dedicated financial support allows civil society organisations to organise, align, and sustain coordinated action. This focused, collective advocacy drives political commitments, policy change and effective programming to end child marriage.



"The critical financial support from the *Girls Not Brides* Secretariat made it possible to conduct a series of impactful activities commemorating the International Day of the Girl Child... These initiatives have amplified the voices of girls and local partners, significantly strengthening collective efforts to empower girls and address the challenges they face."

- *Girls Not Brides Malawi National Coordinator.*



National and State Partnerships/coalitions

Uganda

Girls Not Brides Uganda

124 Members | Grant: £54,110

Partnered with the Ministry of Gender and United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) to implement and disseminate the National Strategy to End Child Marriage and Teenage Pregnancy.

Advanced policy progress through the reinstatement of the Sexual Offences Bill, defining child marriage as an offence and harmonising contradictory child marriage laws.

Tanzania

Tanzania Ending Child Marriage Network (TECMN)

87 Members | Grant: £80,627

Led a campaign for a reform of the 1971 Marriage Act, securing commitment from local leaders. National media coverage led to the formation of community parent, girl and youth groups, committed to amplifying the power of girls.

Worked with stakeholders to implement and improve school re-entry guidelines.

Kenya

Girls Not Brides Kenya

62 Members | Grant: £91,703

Contributed to Kenya's first National Action Plan to End Harmful Practices.

Advocated for government funding, improved data systems, and structural reforms for Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) access.

Nigeria

National Coalition on Ending Child Marriage in Nigeria (NCECM)

73 Members | Grant: £35,580

Partnered with traditional institutions in Lagos and Enugu States to develop and implement community by-laws addressing child marriage, engaging 23 traditional and local leaders and 120 girls as change agents to present policy recommendations at the State of the Nigerian Girls Summit.

Contributed to the review of the National Strategy to End Child Marriage.

Mozambique

Coligação para Eliminação dos Casamentos Prematuros (CECAP)

56 Members | Grant: £36,979

Collaborated with The Ministry of Gender on the National Plan of Action for Children and informed teenage pregnancy technical groups at the Ministry of Health.

Secured commitment from the Ministry of Justice to enforce anti-child marriage laws.

Niger

Platform to End Child Marriage

76 Members | Grant: £40,599

Conducted joint advocacy with national education coalitions under the Education Out Loud programme.

Mentored nine youth researchers to prepare their research and participate in an international webinar.



Burkina Faso

CONAMEB

60 Members | Grant: £42,323

Advocated for the National Strategic Plan to End Child Marriage 2024-28 and modifications to the Penal Code.

Led budget advocacy for girls' education alongside the Education Out Loud programme.

Nepal

Girls Not Brides Nepal

(Balika Dulahi Hoinan)

34 Members | Grant: £59,223

Submitted recommendations to the draft National Strategy to End Child Marriage.

Co-hosted first-ever National Assembly of Child Human Rights Defenders, providing a platform for young advocates to influence child marriage policy.

Jharkhand

Girls Not Brides Jharkhand State Coalition

40 Members

Held a Youth Mela featuring girls' football teams.

Convened a State-Level conversation with 70 stakeholders across government, civil society, and youth on pathways to ending child marriage.

Rajasthan

Girls Not Brides Rajasthan State Partnership

34 Members | Grant: £55,577

In partnership with member 'Partners in Law & Development', organised a workshop to develop a shared understanding of child marriage, with active participation of youth to enable an intergenerational and gender-transformative approach.

Guatemala

La Mesa a Favor de las Niñas y Adolescentes

18 Members | Grant: £94,951

Supported government advocacy meetings resulting in the Presidential Secretariat for Women (SEPREM – the highest-level body of the Presidency in matters related to human rights and women's development) being included in the national ending child marriage action planning.

Malawi

Girls Not Brides Malawi

94 Members | Grant: £77,002

Input into the new National Strategy to End Child Marriage, which launched in October 2024.

Built foundations for the Accelerator Initiative - a collective effort to accelerate action towards ending child marriage, spearheaded by *Girls Not Brides* Secretariat and *Girls Not Brides Malawi*.

Supporting capacity and governance of National and State Partnerships/coalitions

Ensuring partnerships and coalitions have effective governance structures and robust processes and reporting is a fundamental part of what we do. In 2024 we supported **Girls Not Brides Malawi** and **Girls Not Brides Uganda** with their governance structures and Annual General Meetings, paving the way for enhanced accountability, decision-making and further intensive work across the two countries.



The outgoing and incoming steering committee members for *Girls Not Brides Uganda* National Partnership, July 2024



“It has been a fruitful session. As a youth I have been able to understand some key pillars that enhance the smooth running of an organisation. Safeguarding, monitoring, and evaluation skills, for instance, have enlightened me on loopholes within my organisation.”

- Member, *Girls Not Brides Kenya*.

In **Mozambique, Guatemala, Tanzania, Kenya, Jharkhand and Rajasthan**, we provided monitoring, evaluation, and learning (MEAL) support, including guidance in MEAL fundamentals, log-frame development, and multi-year work planning. In **Mozambique**, we provided member-led safeguarding training for 24 national coalition members, while facilitating access to external safeguarding training for the steering committees of the National Partnerships in **Nigeria, Kenya and Uganda**. In **Guatemala**, monthly financial support led to a positive external audit report for the National Partnership's project.

Investing in leadership for lasting change

Ending child marriage requires dedicated and well-resourced leaders at all levels. Our 2024 **Movement Building and Advocacy Leadership Programme (MBALP)** was attended by leaders from 13 National or State Partnerships in Africa and Asia. The nine-month training programme supported participants to develop critical skills ensuring a network of leaders across countries that can continue to learn and support each other.



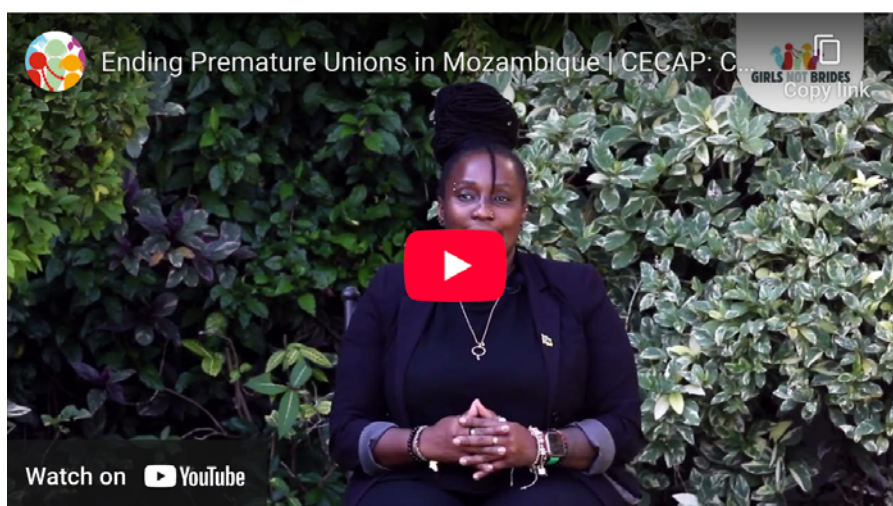
“The Movement Building and Advocacy Leadership Programme was an asset for us. Now we can involve all civil society and government institutions in advocating for girls’ rights and ending child marriages.”



Movement Building and Advocacy Leadership Programme, Cohort 2, December 2024

Co-creating and implementing a common advocacy agenda

Working alongside National and State Partnerships and coalitions, we support the co-creation of strategies and advocacy plans to end child marriage, working with traditional leaders, government representatives, and community-based organisations. We supported **Girls Not Brides Malawi** to work with the government on the new **National Strategy to End Child Marriage**, which launched in October 2024. In **Mozambique**, the Girls Not Brides Secretariat supported **Coligação para Eliminação dos Casamentos Prematuros (CECAP)** to achieve national-level change through strengthening their engagement with government representatives, donor agencies, and other critical partners.



Watch the video here.

Ending Premature Unions in Mozambique | CECAP:
Coligação para Eliminação das Uniãos Prematuras

Connecting the dots



These three spotlight stories show how our work supports national civil society partnerships and coalitions to collectively influence national-level change.



Spotlight on...Nepal

Advancing collective action to end child marriage in Nepal



Nepal country snapshot

- **National Partnership name:** *Girls Not Brides Nepal*
- **Formed:** in 2015
- **Total members:** 34
- **Prevalence:** 35% of women are married before the age of 18 and 6% are married before the age of 15
- **Minimum legal age of marriage:** 20 years for girls and boys with no exceptions

Girls Not Brides Nepal has made transformative strides in the national movement to end child marriage. Building on ten years of experience, the partnership advanced commitments and action at all levels through strategic collaboration, capacity building, and inclusive advocacy.



Strategic input to national strategy

In 2024, the National Partnership played a central role in shaping the draft **National Strategy to End Child Marriage**, working closely with the Ministry of Women, Children, and Senior Citizens. By coordinating consultations across all seven provinces, and providing targeted feedback, *Girls Not Brides Nepal* ensured that rural community voices were included in national policymaking.

Successful budget advocacy in Madhesh province

After identifying a 2023 funding gap, *Girls Not Brides Nepal* successfully led budget advocacy in Madhesh Province. Following engagement with local officials and the submission of evidence-based recommendations, the **Ministry of Sports and Social Welfare of Madhesh Province** reaffirmed its commitment to strengthen policy implementation and support local governments, allocating new resources for awareness campaigns, education incentives, and enforcement mechanisms.



Visit to *Girls Not Brides* member CWIN, Kathmandu, Nepal, 2023

Amplifying youth voices

In a groundbreaking initiative, *Girls Not Brides Nepal* partnered with the South Asia Initiative to End Violence Against Children (SAIEVAC) Consortium Nepal, the National Human Rights Commission, and the National Child Rights Council to convene **Nepal's first National Assembly of Child Human Rights Defenders**. One of the key outcomes was the development of a call to action by the child participants demanding an end to child marriage in Nepal. This will inform the review of the **Regional Action Plan to End Child Marriage in South Asia**.

To strengthen government accountability, the National Partnership played a key role in shaping **Nepal's 2024 Voluntary National Review (VNR)** by facilitating child-led consultations and developing actionable policy recommendations, which were included in Nepal's final VNR, presented at the UN High-Level Political Forum in July 2024.

Creating a diverse partnership

Through targeted outreach, the National Partnership expanded its membership to include organisations from remote areas and under-represented groups to better reflect the voices of young people and local civil society. They also deepened the understanding of child marriage in other networks such as the **National Action and Coordinating Group Nepal (NACG)**, focused on ending violence against children.

Developing a shared agenda

A cornerstone achievement in 2024 was the co-creation of a new two-year collective action plan, aligning diverse member organisations across all seven provinces on a shared agenda to end child marriage.

Centring gender-transformative approaches

Girls Not Brides Secretariat in collaboration with the National Partnership organised a training on gender-transformative approaches. The training emphasised the need for a comprehensive and gender-sensitive approach to ending child marriage. As a result, more members are integrating these approaches into their advocacy, programming, and strategic reviews. At the level of the collective, *Girls Not Brides Nepal* is actively integrating this lens as they contribute to the development of the **National Strategy to End Child Marriage in Nepal**.



Spotlight on... Guatemala

Grassroots and collective efforts in Guatemala to end child marriage



Guatemala country snapshot

- **National Partnership name:** *La Mesa a Favor de las Niñas y Adolescentes (La Mesa)*
- **Formed:** in 2022
- **Total members:** 18
- **Prevalence:** 29% of women are married or in unions before the age of 18 and 6% before the age of 15.
- **Minimum legal age of marriage:** 18 years with no exceptions.
- **Early, child and forced marriage in Guatemala:** Early unions are often informal in Guatemala, making them difficult to track. Early unions are especially prevalent in rural communities and amongst girls and adolescents that have only completed primary education. Despite legal reforms which ban child marriage without exceptions, enforcement is limited, and many girls and adolescents see marriage as a form of protection.

In Guatemala, *Girls Not Brides* provided technical and financial support to *La Mesa*, fostering long-term, sustainable efforts to end child marriage and early forced unions together with other experienced organisations.

[Learn more about *La Mesa*.](#)



Elevating the voices of members, girls and adolescents to advocate for multi-level change

Our joint advocacy efforts are critical in strengthening relationships with government, donors, and international partners. We supported representatives of ***La Mesa and Red Voceras*** to join strategic political events and bilateral meetings with government bodies to call for increased investment in girls and adolescents in national, regional and international policies. The advocacy led by *La Mesa* and supported by *Girls Not Brides* had a direct impact on the **Presidential Secretariat for Women** being included among the key actors in charge of the national action planning to end child marriage. Additionally, members issued evidence-based collective statements drawing attention to the insufficient funding for adolescent girls. This led to the new administration committing to adding a public panel considering child marriage.

[Learn more.](#)

Red Voceras: supporting the next generation of advocates

Red Voceras is a youth-led initiative of La Mesa, supporting young girls and adolescents to become community advocates for change. Through training, mentorship, and leadership development, *Red Voceras* members challenge child marriage and gender inequality in Guatemala. In 2024, the first generation of *Red Voceras* completed their training, and plans for the second generation are underway, ensuring continuity and sustainability of youth-led advocacy.

Meet our youth advocates.

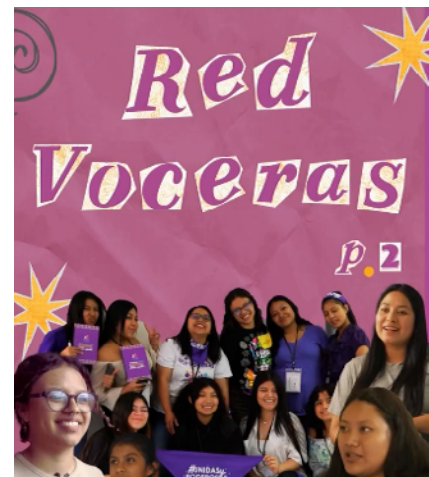
Building a sustainable and collective partnership

In 2024, a key part of our strategy was to support the creation of a collective workplan supported by a multi-year grant. This plan ensures the alignment of all partners, organisations and allies to help focus and sustain advocacy efforts.

“

“I am happy to see how the work that *La Mesa Niña* started last year is beginning to bear the first fruits of what we want to achieve. I am excited and hopeful. We may not solve the world, but I am sure that we will give space to a good number of girls and adolescents so that they can express themselves and hope that in the future, one of them will be the ruler of the country.”

- **La Mesa member.**



Red Voceras Social Media



Dialogue for change, Guatemala, 2024



Red Voceras Social Media



Spotlight on...Uganda

Effective policy advocacy and influence in Uganda



Uganda country snapshot

- **National Partnership name:** *Girls Not Brides Uganda*
- **Formed:** in 2013
- **Total members:** 124 (71% of members are youth-led, 53% are women-led)
- **Prevalence:** 34% of women are married before the age of 18 and 7% are married before the age of 15.
- **Minimum legal age of marriage:** Below 18 years, considering any exceptions.

A trusted collaborator on ending child marriage

In 2024, *Girls Not Brides Uganda* deepened its role as a trusted government partner, through collaboration with the **Ministry of Gender and the Ministry of Education** on the implementation of **Uganda's National Strategy to End Child Marriage**. The government announced the strategy had been rolled out in 34 of Uganda's 143 districts and pledged deeper national multi-sectoral collaboration and implementation. *Girls Not Brides Uganda* was instrumental in localising the strategy by translating it into local languages and adapting it into accessible formats to support grassroots understanding and engagement.

Girls Not Brides Uganda supported the reinstatement of the **Sexual Offences Bill** to criminalise child marriage, signing Memorandums of Understanding with parliamentary forums focused on children and teenage pregnancy. They helped ensure the prioritisation of adolescent girls' needs by shaping the **National Adolescent Health Costed Implementation Plan**, and through collaboration with the **Interreligious Council of Uganda, Makerere University, and cultural leaders** on promoting social norm transformation, with an emphasis on the integration of the rights of women and girls.



Site visits to Rhythm of Life from the National Partnership in Uganda. We learnt from member's work and the captivating stories of girls. 2023



"Our National Partnership is a beacon of hope for many young girls whose futures depend on our actions. Together, we will amplify their voices, advocate for their rights, and ensure that every girl in Uganda can pursue her dreams free from the threat of child marriage."

Co-chair elect, *Girls Not Brides Uganda*.



Local engagement shaping policy and social norms change

Girls Not Brides Uganda expanded its membership from 106 to 144 civil society organisations, extending its reach into post-conflict areas in the North and East, where child marriage remains highly prevalent. Using its community networks, they engaged clan clusters in culturally sensitive dialogue around the **National Strategy to End Child Marriage**, leading cultural and traditional leaders in Gulu and Nebbi to become key champions in efforts to end child marriage.

Girls Not Brides Uganda organised **five regional Girls Summits**, a cornerstone of their country-wide mobilisation and engagement. Notably, the Central Region's summit was co-hosted by the Buganda Kingdom for the first time. These summits helped shape **Uganda's National Sexuality Education Framework** through a study covering 74 districts in the North and East, informing improved guidance on issues such as the re-entry of pregnant girls into school, credited by local leaders in the prevention of vulnerable girls being forced into early marriage. The **flagship National Girls Summit** served as a national platform to elevate girls' voices, share their experiences, and advocate for stronger legal protections. Members presented an Issue Brief on child marriage and teenage pregnancy to Hon. Lillian Aber, Uganda's Minister for Disaster Preparedness, who committed to taking the outcomes of the summit to senior government stakeholders.

[Read more on the outcomes from the National Girls Summit.](#)

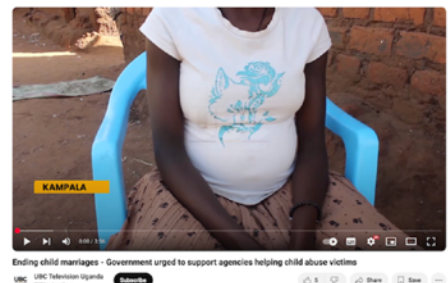
Strengthening governance and leadership for collective action

The year also marked a successful leadership transition for the **Ugandan National Partnership**. The inclusive process concluded with the launch of a **five-year strategic plan (2023–2028)**, aimed at strengthening coordination, addressing harmful norms, and building girls' agency. The transition reinvigorated member engagement and was widely celebrated as a milestone for sustainability and youth leadership.

“

“This transition process has been a transformative experience, giving me the courage and motivation to push for meaningful change, not just within my organisation but also across the Alliance. It has shown that with dedication, young leaders can indeed make a significant impact.”

- Central Region Coordinator for *Girls Not Brides Uganda*.



Ending child marriages - UBC Television Uganda

[Watch the news piece.](#)

“

“Our first leadership transition is a bold step for *Girls Not Brides Uganda*. I look forward to greater collaboration, transparency, and grassroots engagement.”



- Member, *Girls Not Brides Uganda*.



Influencing

We elevate voices and expertise

Throughout 2024, we convened, coordinated, and influenced key actors across the end child marriage ecosystem to ensure that adolescent girls remain at the heart of policy, programming, and funding commitments. We elevated the voices and expertise of our global membership and leveraged the latest data and evidence to drive transformative change.



We influenced stronger political commitments and increased funding to end child marriage

Even in the face of shrinking civic space, stronger cross-border anti-rights groups, and political and economic pressures, we saw renewed commitments to end child marriage from critical powerholders and decision-makers. We created collaborative spaces at critical moments to bring together civil society, governments, donors and allies, and created opportunities to shape and drive action and investment into ending child marriage.

After significant advocacy efforts, including a joint statement submitted by **Girls Not Brides** and **124 member organisations**, child, early and forced marriage was explicitly recognised as a violation of girls' and young women's human rights in the UN **Pact for the Future**. This reaffirmed international resolve to end child marriage, echoed in the 2024 **UNGA Child Early and Forced Marriage Resolution**. The Resolution, supported through formal and informal influencing at the **UN General Assembly** and beyond by **Girls Not Brides** and its members, was adopted by consensus in November 2024 with 123 country co-sponsors.



Annual Strategic Donor Meeting

Together with **Global Affairs Canada**, we convened the annual **Strategic Donor Meeting** with 50 participants from funders and strategic partners to connect, re-energise, and re-commit to accelerating an end to child marriage. Conversations like these are integral to building community and consensus around the importance of protecting and increasing investments to end child marriage. 2024 saw the **Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO)** along with **Children's Investment Fund Foundation (CIFF)** announce multi-million-pound investments towards ending child marriage and advancing the rights of adolescent girls.

In Africa, we worked closely with governments at both the **Africa Union** and the **Southern African Development Community (SADC) Parliamentary Forum** to ensure renewed commitments to addressing child marriage.

In Asia, we led the **Technical Working Group on Child Marriage** as part of the **the South Asian Coordinating Group for Ending Violence Against Women and Children (SACG)**, overseeing the review of the **Regional Action Plan to End Child Marriage in South Asia**.

In Latin America and the Caribbean, we influenced a position statement at the **57th session on the Commission on Population and Development (CPD)**, emphasising the importance of advancing SRHR to addressing child marriage and early unions, and ensuring the practice was successfully integrated into the regional civil society declaration.



SADC Model Law Convening, Lusaka 2024

We actively engage other sectors to ensure that ending child marriage is prioritised across all areas of policy and practice

Child marriage is driven by multiple, interconnected factors, so our influencing work spans related sectors such as education, health and climate. This approach helps build a broader, more coordinated response, ensuring holistic and multisectoral strategies to end child marriage.



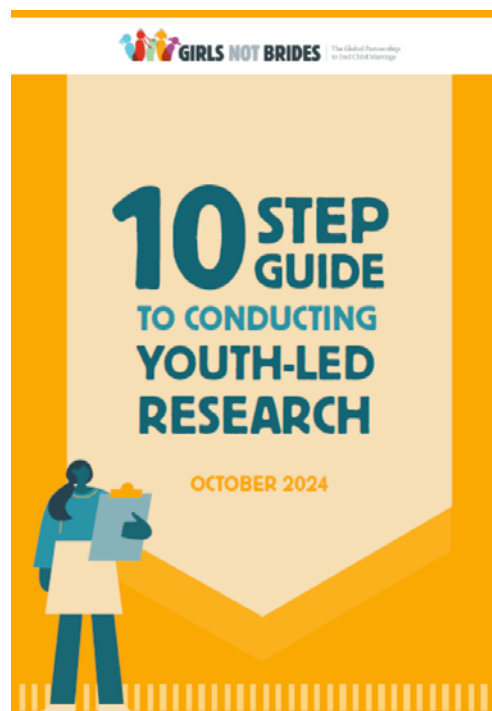
In 2024, *Girls Not Brides* worked with **Human Rights Watch** and other partners to advocate for a new **Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child**, recognising the right to early childhood education and to guarantee free secondary education. We supported representatives from our **National Partnership in Ghana**, as well as **GAMCOTRAP in The Gambia**, to advocate for the Optional Protocol's establishment at the **Human Rights Council in Geneva**. This helped to establish an intergovernmental working group and early co-sponsorship from both countries, demonstrating strong regional leadership and civil society influence in advancing girls' rights through education.

Learn more about the Optional Protocol.

Our **Education Out Loud** project in **Francophone West Africa**, made possible by the Global Partnership for Education's fund for advocacy and social accountability, entered its second phase, bringing together end child marriage and education networks to shape policy and research through a shared agenda.

In 2024, we supported **youth activists to carry out research and advocacy**, sponsoring one youth researcher from **Niger** to participate in the **Gender is my Agenda Campaign (GIMAC)** network Pre-Summit Consultative Meeting to the **African Union Assembly of Heads of State and Government**. Best practices from this project were shared through **a practical 10-step guide** to support other organisations to effectively conduct youth-led research.

Read the 10-step guide on youth-research.



We amplify our members' expertise and power on global and regional platforms

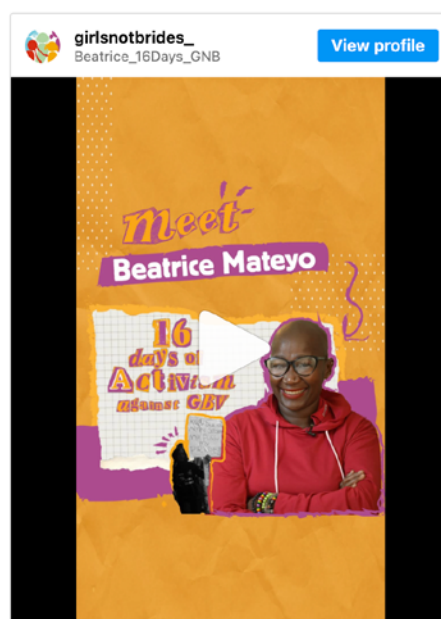
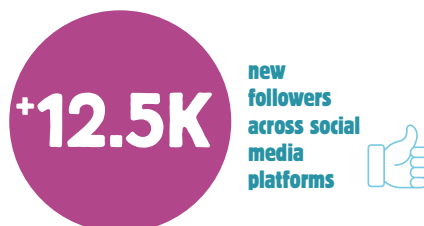
Local and national civil society organisations hold deep knowledge on what works to end child marriage and are critical to driving change in families, communities, and countries. We platform their voices, facilitate direct connections to influence those in power, and continue to advocate for the crucial role civil society plays in bringing about change with, and for, girls.

In 2024, we stood alongside powerful Gambian advocates calling on the government to uphold the ban on Female Genital Mutilation and Cutting (FGM/C) – an issue strongly linked to child marriage, including at the **African Union Pan-African Conference on Girls' and Women's Education and at the 56th Human Rights Council**. We supported Dr. Isatou Touray from our member organisation **GAMCOTRAP** to deliver a powerful intervention, to speak at our co-hosted side event on cross-border FGM/C and to meet with the UN Special Rapporteur on Violence against Women and Girls. Our [advocacy efforts](#) were critical in drawing international attention and pressure, contributing to the upholding of the FGM/C ban—a major win for girls' rights.

[Read more on our work to influence in The Gambia.](#)

At the **2024 Association for Women's Rights in Development (AWID) conference**, we joined forces with **Girls First Fund and the UNICEF-UNFPA Global Programme to End Child Marriage** to co-host an evening reception for our members, key allies, partners and donors to position child marriage as a critical gender justice issue. We sponsored five members from **India, Bangladesh and Nepal** to attend, and advocated with them for long-term flexible funding, increased partnerships with women-led organisations and centring of adolescent girls.

Through storytelling and campaigns, we amplified the voices, expertise, and impact of our members to demonstrate the power of civil society actors driving change. Our [#MovementMakers series](#) showcased the powerful personal stories of civil society leaders across **eight countries in Africa and Asia**, inspiring the next generation of changemakers. The videos had a combined 2,500 views on YouTube and our 56 social media posts reached over 44,000 people. Our social media toolkits provide common messaging and graphics for our collective advocacy with our members. For example, for the **International Day of Education**, our toolkit of 12 graphics across three languages resulted in over 65 members' posts and **reached over 282,000 people** on our own platforms.



Movement Maker Series on Instagram

Connecting the dots

Learn more about how our work comes together to influence policy and resource commitments with these case studies from Colombia and Southern Africa.



Spotlight on...Colombia

Collective power in action - Colombia passes landmark law banning child marriage



Child marriage in Colombia

- **Prevalence:** 23% of girls in Colombia marry or enter a union before age 18 and 5% before age 15.
- **Demographics:** Child, early, and forced marriage and unions are more common in rural areas of Colombia, where 40% of girls are married before the age of 18. They are also more prevalent among Indigenous and Black/Afro-Colombian communities.
- **Type of Marriage:** Child, Early, and Forced Marriage and Unions predominantly takes the form of an informal union, rather than a formal marriage.



After 17 years of campaigning by civil society groups, in 2024 Colombia took a historic step by approving one of the most comprehensive laws in Latin America and the Caribbean to ban child marriage.

The law not only raises the age of marriage to 18 years without exception but also incorporates the design and implementation of a National Comprehensive Programme for Life Projects for Children and Adolescents, aimed at reducing the root causes of early unions.

Working with key partners including **Asociación ProFamilia, Equality Now, Girls First Fund (GFF), Fundación para el desarrollo en Género y Familia (GENFAMI), and Global Fund for Children**, we collectively raised awareness of child, early, and forced marriage and unions as a form of violence against children to strengthen political will on this issue in Colombia. We provided direct support and guidance to key Senators and lawmakers who then proposed the bill in Congress, providing technical support to refine the bill proposal. *Girls Not Brides* and its members in Colombia ensured progress by facilitating space for dialogue, engaging key actors, establishing relationships with senators and targeting specific decision makers. Media coverage helped sustain public and political pressure, contributing to the successful passing of the law.

Timeline of collective actions in Colombia with members and partners



Congress members confirmed the importance of the new bill:



"It is extremely important to have a project with a preventive approach, such as the Life Projects Programme for Girls and Adolescents, which is the first initiative of its kind worldwide. It should not only focus on ending child marriage but also provide children with the opportunity to envision a life project. This raises the question of how public policies can be established around the most vulnerable populations with an intersectional approach."

- Congresswoman Alexandra Vázquez.

"We will require a very serious effort in coordination between Congress and the population for the implementation of the Life Project for Girls, Boys, and Adolescents. The key will be in collaboration with civil society organisations, as they already understand the territory, how these practices occur, the common factors involved, and how we can intervene to prevent them."

- Congresswoman Jennifer Pedraza.



Colombian organisations reflected on their collective work:



"There was openness to collaboration; we organised ourselves and held several joint sessions to determine what we considered important. The necessary time was dedicated, and through coordinated advocacy efforts, we successfully achieved the approval of the law in Colombia."

- Partner organisation, Colombia.

"One of the key achievements was establishing organisations and the coalition as a relevant actor in the region, creating opportunities for alliances with other sectors and social movements."

- Partner organisation, Colombia.

"The reform of the civil code will not put an end to early unions. It is crucial to ensure the development of programmes like the National Programme, built on the principles of participation—especially the participation of children and adolescents—so that their experiences are taken seriously. This way, programmes can address the specific needs and circumstances of children and adolescents at higher risk of child marriage and early unions."

- Nicolás Giraldo, Legal and Policy Change Coordinator at Asociación ProFamilia.

[Read more on this story here.](#)





Spotlight on...Southern Africa

Accelerating legislative reform to end child marriage in Southern Africa



Child Marriage in Southern Africa

- **Status and Minimum Age:** Originally adopted in 2016 by the SADC Parliamentary Forum, the SADC Model Law on Eradicating Child Marriage sets the minimum age of marriage at 18 for girls and boys without exception and provides a framework for SADC member states to end child marriage by harmonising national laws, promoting prevention and response mechanisms, and addressing root causes of child marriage.

In August 2024, we co-hosted a major regional convening to drive the implementation of the **Southern African Development Community (SADC) Model Law on Eradicating Child Marriage**, through a partnership with the **SADC Parliamentary Forum, HIVOS, UNFPA East and Southern Africa Regional Office, Plan International's Southern Africa Programme, and UNICEF**. The event brought together critical stakeholders in ending child marriage from across the region, including civil society, policymakers, traditional leaders, youth leaders and UN agencies. Dialogue across all stakeholders was critical in ensuring a rights-based, gender-transformative approach to discussions on implementation and resourcing of the SADC Model Law on Eradicating Child Marriage.

Key outcomes included the formation of a new regional Communities of Practice (CoP) to facilitate knowledge sharing, collaboration, and continuous learning. Together, stakeholders co-created a clear, actionable path forward: one that champions legal reform, prioritises grassroots leadership, and drives collaborative accountability across the region to ensure girls and children are free from the risk of child marriage.



“This convening provides a platform for all stakeholders, including civil society, legislators, and traditional leaders to review progress realised towards ending child marriage and upholding the fundamental rights of all children. Eight years following the adoption of the Model Law by the SADC Parliamentary Forum, it is encouraging to see that there is a growing momentum as well as positive signs of collaboration from governments towards ending child marriage.”

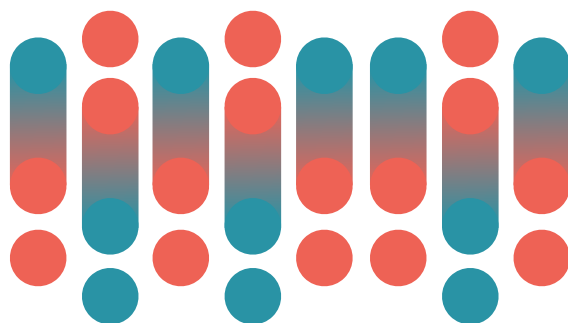
- Hon. Boema Sekgoma, Secretary General SADC Parliamentary Forum.



“This regional convening is a crucial step in turning our commitments into action, ensuring that no girl is left behind. Together, we can build a future where every child in the SADC region can enjoy their rights to education, health, and a life free from violence.”

- Antoinette Ngoma, Country Director of Plan International Zambia.

Learn about our efforts to advance the Model Law.



Learning

A global knowledge & learning hub

Girls Not Brides is a global knowledge and learning hub, driving a shared understanding of what works to end child marriage. Evidence and learning play a central role in our work, ensuring that policies, programmes and investments to end child marriage and support married girls are grounded in evidence. We play a critical role in connecting evidence with practice, sharing knowledge across our membership, the research community, funders, and policymakers.



We generate, use, and share the latest evidence to drive informed action

Throughout 2024, we strengthened our role as a global thought leader on what works to end child marriage. We shared learning and insights at key global platforms, including [the Sexual Violence Research Initiative Forum](#) in Cape Town and our Strategic Donor Meeting in London, equipping donors, decision makers and strategic partners with the insights they need to address the root causes of child marriage.

Child marriage in conflict and crisis affected settings

Our [global report](#), launched at a public seminar on **Girls' Rights in War and Conflict in Sweden**, highlights the drivers and consequences of child marriage in conflict and crisis affected contexts, where prevalence is twice the global average. It shares promising practices, evidence, and tools for action and calls for a fundamental shift in programming approaches, urging local, national, and international actors to prioritise the needs of girls.

Updating the 'Child Marriage Atlas'

In 2024, we completed a comprehensive update of our Child Marriage Atlas, the most viewed area of our website and a critical engagement entry point for audiences. We updated all 203 country profiles with the latest prevalence data, laws and policies, contextual drivers, and current efforts to address child marriage. The Atlas continues to be a vital tool for researchers, advocates and educators. It is used by the **University of Nottingham** to inform teaching on child marriage law and was cited in a civil society report on girls' rights for the **Beijing+30 Review in the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) region**.

[View our Child Marriage Atlas here.](#)

Filling data gaps on child marriage in the Horn of Africa

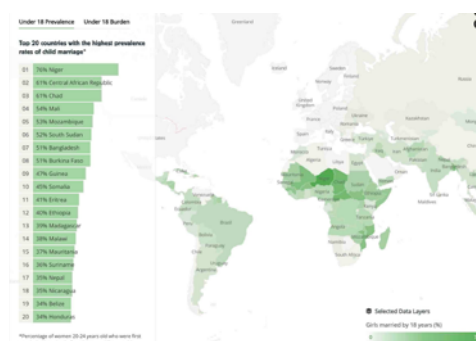
Through a [rigorous literature review](#), we mapped interventions and organisations addressing child, early, and forced marriage across the **Horn of Africa**. This review fills a critical regional data gap, offering insights into community efforts and the social and cultural factors driving child marriage, providing a key resource for those working to protect girls' rights in the region.

Building inter-sectoral collaboration with a brief on child marriage and SDGs in India

Offering insights to address the root causes of child marriage, [our report](#) gained a total of 13,798 impressions, 3,790 engagements, and an engagement rate of 13.16% - highlighting a remarkable uptake by key organisations and stakeholders in the region.



Child Marriage in Conflict and Crisis Report



Child Marriage Atlas



Horn of Africa Literature Review



Child Marriage and SDGs in India

We strengthen the coordination and uptake of research and evidence

We play a pivotal role in ensuring research and evidence to address child marriage is accessible, aligned, and used to inform action at global, regional and national levels. In 2024 we deepened collaboration with leading research partners including the **UNFPA-UNICEF Global Programme to End Child Marriage**, **UNICEF Innocenti**, **University College London**, **World Health Organization**, **Accelerate Hub**, the **MENA Regional Action Forum To End Child Marriage**, and the **Sexuality Working Group**, amongst others, to align our research priorities and fill knowledge gaps to end child marriage.

The CRANK

The Child Marriage Research to Action Network (**The CRANK**), our joint initiative with the **UNFPA-UNICEF Global Programme to End Child Marriage**, continues to build on its strong record as an effective coordinator of global child marriage research. We disseminated the latest priority analysis among its 570 engaged cross-regional members and facilitated the uptake of this evidence to strengthen programme, advocacy, and policy outcomes.



“I think (The CRANK) is a very effective network – the tracker, the research meeting and research spotlights really help facilitate a global space to share the latest evidence on child marriage, because they allow interaction, discussion, and help build networks. The research tracker and evidence reviews and other online resources really support accessing specific evidence when you need it.”

- Quote provided by CRANK member as part of the SIDA Evaluation Survey.

New focus on child marriage and mental health

In collaboration with **University College London** and [the Global Network on Mental Health and Child Marriage](#), the CRANK hosted a symposium with over 200 stakeholders to explore the relationship between child marriage and mental health. Emerging evidence shows that girls who are or have been married experience a range of poor mental outcomes - from anxiety, depression, and suicidal ideation - but that support services are limited and poorly resourced. The event helped put this issue on the global agenda, resulting in a joint comment in [The Lancet Child & Adolescent Health - Mental health consequences of child marriage](#), and a forthcoming special issue in the *Journal of Vulnerable Children and Youth Studies*. Initial recommendations call for safe spaces, community-led support, and systems-level responses to improve care for girls who are or have been married.



Mental health consequences of child marriage

The persistence of child, early, and...
[thelancet.com](https://www.thelancet.com)

Read the journal article.

The Lancet journal article

We support our members to apply evidence and learning to strengthen their impact

Building the skills, knowledge, and leadership needed to collectively address child marriage is a key component of our learning offer to members. In 2024, we held four webinars, five training sessions, and published a suite of 20 learning briefs, toolkits and reports.

Here's what our members say about our learning work:



70% of members surveyed have accessed one learning product in the last year.

(209 surveyed members)



79% are satisfied with our learning products, as highly relevant, timely and practical, well-researched, data-driven, expert-backed, introducing new ideas and challenging existing approaches which ultimately support organisations and communities to address child marriage.



“The resources, such as CRANK research meetings, thematic briefs, and webinars, have been insightful and directly applicable to our work. They have enhanced our understanding of child marriage issues and provided practical tools for advocacy and programme development.”

- Girls Not Brides member.



“I leave satisfied knowing that I can see all the work we did in the virtual sessions reflected in the tool, and that it will allow us to evaluate our work from the gender-transformative perspective. Thank you, *Girls Not Brides*, for facilitating these spaces.”

- Girls Not Brides member, México.

Connecting the dots

See how our in-depth learning work leads to real policy impact and influence.



Spotlight on...

Using evidence for advocacy: Driving a clearer understanding of legal reform to end child marriage

- In 2024, we prioritised legal reform as a central learning agenda,
- deepening understanding of what is required for effective, rights-based
- approaches to end child marriage.

Evidence synthesis

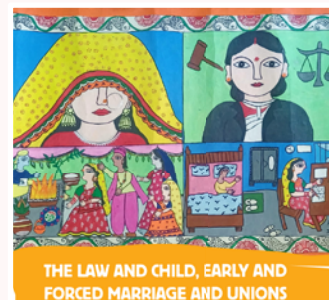
Unpacking the evidence on child, early, and forced marriages and unions and the law strengthens our call for a comprehensive response to addressing child marriage. While legal reforms remain essential to demonstrate political commitment, unlock investment, and uphold the rights of girls, emerging evidence shows that laws alone are not sufficient and can lead to unintended, harmful consequences for girls – especially those most at-risk, from marginalised communities, and those facing systemic barriers to justice.

Communication, promotion, and critical engagement

We brought this evidence to life through a strategic journey from insight to action. This included synthesising the latest research, developing practical resources, and sharing learnings with our members and partners, and more widely at global convenings. Through dialogues with policymakers, legal experts and grassroots advocates, we championed more nuanced approaches—ones that acknowledge the reality of adolescent unions and focus on building supportive systems, not just legal deterrents.

February

- **Global evidence review:** A comprehensive synthesis examining how laws on child marriage and sexual consent affect prevalence, girls' rights, and autonomy. It identified critical questions for reform and implementation.
- **Learning brief:** Featured case studies from our members, key advocacy messages, and considerations for programming and policy.
- **Learning webinar:** Bringing together researchers and practitioners from Nepal and Malawi to explore implications for national advocacy, with takeaways published for wider application.



Global evidence review

April

- **Sexuality Working Group statement and Webinar:** Challenges prevailing assumptions in legal advocacy, especially around the increasing trend of adolescent girls initiating underage unions.

June

- **Latin America and the Caribbean evidence brief and Webinar: Reviewing regional evidence from Latin America and the Caribbean on how laws impact girls' rights.** Sharing experiences from Mexico, Guatemala, and Colombia.
- **CRANK research meeting: CRANK Research Meeting on Child Marriage Prevention Laws and their Implications:** presenting key findings and recommendations from the global evidence brief to inform debates and foster uptake of this evidence through discussion and summary outputs with key takeaways.



Evidence Review. Image: Women's Justice Initiative/Photography by James Rodriguez/Girls Not Brides

September

- **FAQs:** Developed to help integrate the evidence into policy and programming decisions.
- **Presenting findings on how child marriage laws can promote adolescent girls' evolving capacities and autonomy at the Stellenbosch International Conference on Children's Rights.** Legal practitioners welcomed the evidence, recognising its value in mitigating unintended negative impacts.



“These spaces are very important to exchange experiences from the region and to continue thinking together about actions to advance and address CEFMU.”

Girls Not Brides Member, regarding the learning opportunity around CEFMU and the Law from a Latin America and Caribbean perspective.

Advocacy in action

These interventions have played a pivotal role in steering the global conversation on legal reform for ending child marriage towards more nuanced, rights-based, gender-transformative approaches. We have worked to shift external messaging beyond punitive legal frameworks, particularly within human rights spaces. This was evident in **Colombia**, where messaging strengthened advocacy for the creation of a **National Comprehensive Programme for Life Projects for Children and Adolescents**. This programme complements the new national law that raises the age of marriage to 18 with no exceptions, ensuring legal reform is paired with preventative programmes that centre and serve girls.

In **Nepal**, this evidence informed the national dialogue on proposed changes to the legal minimum age of marriage, making the case for approaches that are rooted in both rights and evidence. At the **Southern African Development Community (SADC) Model Law Convening**, members were supported to ensure that rights-based and gender-transformative approaches were embedded into the regional legislative discussion, resulting in the **Joint Statement on Defending Girls' Rights on Ending Child Marriage in the SADC Region**.

In **Latin America and the Caribbean**, where laws banning child marriage are already in place across most countries, our work catalysed vital conversations around implementation gaps and the need to move beyond legal reform alone. The emphasis is now shifting toward solutions that focus on opportunity, support, and protection for girls.

Find all our learning resources on the impact of the law on child marriage.

Who We Are

***Girls Not Brides* is the global partnership working collectively to end child marriage formed of 1,446 member organisations in 94 countries. Our vision is a world without child marriage where girls and women enjoy equal status with boys and men and are able to achieve their full potential in all aspects of their lives.**

Our Team

The *Girls Not Brides* Secretariat is a small, passionate team of 51 staff across the UK, Guatemala, India, Kenya, Mexico, Nepal, Nigeria, Senegal, and Uganda. We support the partnership, members and activists at different levels through movement-building, influencing and learning.

Our Board

In 2024, we were delighted to welcome a new Chair and Vice-Chair and, in January 2025, a new Treasurer.

Dr. Alaa Murabit, our new Chair, is a globally renowned advocate for women's rights and medical doctor, bringing decades of experience championing gender equality and inclusive security.



“

“I am deeply honoured to join *Girls Not Brides* as Chair of the Board of Trustees. The global movement to end child marriage is at a critical juncture, and I am dedicated to ensuring that the voices of women and girls are at the forefront of our efforts. Together, we will continue to build on the incredible progress made, fostering deeper partnerships and collective action to ensure that every girl has the freedom to make her own choices and fulfil her potential.”

Read more about her vision for working together [here](#).

Ramin Shahzamani, our new Deputy Chair, has a substantial track record in the humanitarian sector, having held numerous leadership roles at War Child and Plan International.



“

“This is an exciting time for *Girls Not Brides* and the cause resonates deeply with me. So much has been achieved, yet there is still so much to do... it is vital that *Girls Not Brides* continues to ensure that the voices of women and girls are heard and at the forefront of our efforts.”

Sinéad Donovan, our new Treasurer, brings decades of financial leadership, as the first female partner of Grant Thornton Ireland and the former President of Chartered Accountants Ireland.



“Girls Not Brides...has achieved so much, yet at this critical moment in history—when gender equity feels increasingly under threat—it remains brimming with potential. I will do all I can to help achieve our goal of ending child marriage.”

We would like to thank Dr. Anne T Gallagher (Outgoing Board Chair 2021-2024) and Rita Sarin (Outgoing Board Member 2020-2024) for their outstanding contribution, invaluable leadership, and unwavering commitment during their tenure on the Board.

Grant management

Girls Not Brides continued to pursue equity and efficiency in our operations and grant-making. In 2024, we partnered with StoneX Group to ensure an effective solution for international payments across multiple countries, minimising the impacts of fluctuating exchange rates for our partners and members. We streamlined our grant-making due diligence checks and compliance process by partnering with Santions.IO. This helped to speed up our compliance pre-checks around sanctions and Anti-Money Laundering.

Safeguarding

Girls Not Brides continued to embed standards of safeguarding across all operations. In 2024, we provided training to members and developed templates for members and partners to create safeguarding policies and guidelines.

Financial snapshot

Income: £5,352,027



Expenditure: £4,809,595



■ **Charitable activities: £4,497,570**
≡ **Raising funds: £312,025**





Thank You

The work of *Girls Not Brides* would not be possible without the support of our 1,446 members and our strategic partners.

A special thanks to our committed donors for supporting our work in 2024:

Advancing Girls Fund of Tides Foundation

Belron Ronnie Lubner Charitable Foundation

Catesby Foundation

Education Out Loud (Global Programme for Education / Oxfam Denmark)

Ford Foundation

Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation

Government of Canada

Nationale Postcode Loterij

Oak Foundation

Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida)

The David and Lucile Packard Foundation

United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)

Windfall Foundation

Wellspring Philanthropic Fund

This report was made possible through the hard work of the whole *Girls Not Brides* Secretariat team, Christianne Williamson and Kate Whittaker, and designed by [Amy Reinecke at Oh Good Studio.](#)



Join Us in Ending Child Marriage

Girls Not Brides: The Global Partnership to End Child Marriage and our members around the world work tirelessly to create a future where every girl is free to choose if, when, and whom to marry. But we can't do it alone. Whether you're a policymaker, donor, civil society organisation, or advocate – your support matters. To find out more about our work and explore partnership opportunities, get in touch!

Email: info@girlsnotbrides.org

Email: donor.engagement@girlsnotbrides.org



IMPACT REPORT 2024

***Girls Not Brides* is a global partnership of over 1,400 civil society organisations from nearly 100 countries committed to ending child marriage and ensuring girls can fulfil their potential.**

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