

# GIRL SUMMIT

A FUTURE FREE FROM FGM AND  
CHILD AND FORCED MARRIAGE

# ONE YEAR ON



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**Girl Summit 2014**, co-hosted by the UK government and UNICEF in London in July 2014, built partnerships and galvanised the global movements to end Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting (FGM/C) and Child, Early and Forced Marriage (CEFM).

One Year On, highlights some of the inspiring actions being taken around the world toward a future free from FGM/C and CEFM.

For a fuller list of actions of **Girl Summit 2014** participants and progress against government commitments please see: [www.girlsummit2014.org](http://www.girlsummit2014.org)

# THE RT HON JUSTINE GREENING MP, SECRETARY OF STATE FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT



Justine Greening signing the Girl Summit charter. **Photo:** Jessica Lea/Department for International Development

I am immensely proud that the UK government co-hosted the first ever Girl Summit in 2014, which was a decisive moment in breaking the silence on FGM and Child, Early and Forced Marriage. Over 490 people have signed up to the Girl Summit Charter and more than 180 people and institutions have made

commitments to end these practices.

This short update sets out some inspiring examples of the actions taking forward the message of the Summit, from grassroots organisations working at a community level to global organisations working internationally. As the update shows, all relevant parts of the UK government are playing their part to end CEFM and FGM and promote the rights of girls and women. These issues remain my highest priority and I will continue to champion the changes catalysed by Girl Summit 2014 and work in partnership with others toward a future free from FGM and CEFM.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Justine Greening'.

# ANTHONY LAKE, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, UNICEF



Anthony Lake, Executive Director of UNICEF  
**Photo:** UNICEF/NYHQ2010-0697/Markisz

The Girl Summit helped fuel a growing global movement to protect the right of every girl to a future she has chosen for herself - and a life in which her health and wellbeing are not endangered by female genital mutilation or child and

forced marriage. Thanks to significant steps taken by governments, the work of civil society organizations, the generosity of donors, and action by communities, we are making progress. But unless we do more - urgently - the number of girls subjected to FGM/C and child and forced marriage will rise. On the one-year anniversary of the Girl Summit, UNICEF renews the pledge we made then: to work to end FGM/C and child and forced marriage so millions of girls can realize their ambitions for a better future. For them - and thus for us all.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Anthony Lake'.

# ACTION TAKEN BY GOVERNMENTS

The Girl Summit Charter has been signed by 43 governments



Photo: Ethiopia Jessica Lea Department for International Development

27 governments made commitments toward ending CEFM and FGM/C at Girl Summit 2014. In 2014, the UNFPA-UNICEF Joint Programme on FGM/C received \$22.4 million from Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, Norway and the UK, with new commitments from Sweden and Germany. The new Global Programme to End Child Marriage, led by UNICEF and UNFPA, has mobilised approximately \$80 million from the governments of Italy, Netherlands, Norway and the UK, on top of existing contributions from Canada.

The governments of Egypt, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya and Sudan have taken significant leadership and co-ordination of efforts to end harmful practices.

Egypt and Kenya made commitments focusing on effective enforcement of existing laws. Egypt prosecuted a case following a death associated with FGM/C, while Kenya has seen 30 arrests through enforcement of the

anti-FGM law. 18 governments in Africa, the Middle East and South Asia where FGM/C and child marriage are prevalent made commitments to end the practices, 16 on eliminating child marriage, 12 on ending FGM/C and 10 on ending both practices.

Since the Summit, 11 countries have started to develop National Action Plans on one or both issues; Burkina Faso, Egypt, Niger, Mozambique, Somalia, and Uganda have already completed these plans.

Since July 2014, Bangladesh, Burkina Faso, Mali, Yemen and Zambia have started legal reforms to end child marriage.

In May 2015 the government of Nigeria passed a law banning FGM/C. Nine governments have supported new data collection on FGM/C or child marriage since Girl Summit 2014. Egypt and Sudan have produced updated prevalence figures for FGM/C and child marriage.



Photo: Graham Crouch/Girls Not Brides

The world is celebrating 25 years since the Convention on the Rights of the Child. As we shape the next generation of development goals, together with governments and partners, UNICEF has made progress on its key Girl Summit 2014 commitments to ending harmful practices: getting girls into school; mobilising families and communities; investing in services; and generating and using data.

UNICEF's major results have been through its country programmes.

In 2014, 21 countries worked on ending FGM/C, reaching at least 5.6 million people. Working through the UNFPA-UNICEF joint programme on FGM/C in 17 of these countries, some 20,000 young people were mobilised to call for an end to the practice and 1,007 communities publicly declared their abandonment of FGM/C.

Last year, 38 countries programmed to end child marriage. Of these, 18 now have national strategies or plans on child

marriage, five of which have been costed. To strengthen global investment to end child marriage, UNICEF embarked on a global programme with UNFPA spanning Africa, Asia and the Middle East.

UNICEF programmes promote school enrolment and retention for girls. They also support grassroots work empowering girls with life skills. Community conversations enable families to agree on how to end harmful practices. Innovations such as U-Report and social media are giving visibility to young change makers across communities and countries.

Since Girl Summit 2014, UNICEF has helped organise six national launches of the African Union Campaign to End Child Marriage. It also supported the South Asia Initiative to End Violence against Children to develop their action plan to end child marriage. UNICEF data and projections on the future trends in FGM/C and child marriage have informed the debates on the post-2015 development agenda.



Freida Pinto, actress and Plan Ambassador. **Photo:** Russell Watkins/Department for International Development

At Girl Summit 2014, the UK government announced an unprecedented package of measures to tackle FGM and child, early and forced marriage. Since the Summit, the UK has delivered on these commitments.

### **Domestically this has meant:**

- Strengthening the law on FGM significantly, including introducing an offence of failing to protect a girl from risk of FGM, FGM Protection Orders, and mandatory reporting of FGM by relevant professionals.
- Establishing a dedicated FGM Unit which provides outreach support to local areas, and coordinates activity across government.
- Providing resources for frontline professionals and distributing over 440,000 communication materials.
- Funding a £3m national FGM Prevention Programme with a package of measures to support NHS staff in preventing FGM, protecting girls at risk and caring for survivors.

- Securing signatures from over 350 leaders of every major religion in the UK to a declaration to make clear that no faith condones FGM.
- Launching a force level inspection on the police response to Honour Based Violence with a focus on FGM and forced marriage.
- Funding a programme to bring together experts on FGM to support local authorities and 29 community prevention and awareness projects, including supporting a network of over 60 community champions.

### **Internationally:**

- The UK has launched a £36 million programme to accelerate action to end child marriage, including £8 million for civil society working on sexual and reproductive health and rights overseas.
- The UK has strengthened implementation of its flagship £35 million programme to tackle FGM, including launching the social change and research components of the programme.

# AFRICAN UNION CAMPAIGN TO END CHILD MARRIAGE



Since Girl Summit 2014, the African Union (AU) campaign to End Child Marriage has continued its leadership by raising awareness of the issue, extending the campaign until 2018 and supporting national campaigns in AU Member States.

National launches have taken place in Ethiopia, Niger, Chad, Burkina Faso, Democratic Republic of Congo, Madagascar and Uganda.

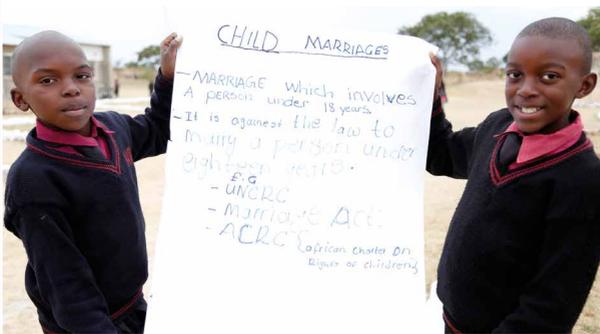
The Day of the African Child in June 2015 had a thematic focus on ending child marriage. The AU is planning to host an African Girl Summit later in 2015.



UNFPA continues to work on supporting governments, civil society partners, and young people in ending child marriage by making evidence-based investments in the poorest adolescent girls. Since July 2014, UNFPA, in partnership with UNICEF, has established a Global Programme on accelerating action to end child marriage. The Global Programme is a multi-sectoral, multi-stakeholder initiative to provide technical leadership and accelerate progress on the ground toward ending child marriage. It will initially cover 12 countries in four regions. UNFPA has successfully advocated for the inclusion of a target and related indicator on harmful practices, including child marriage, in the proposed Sustainable Development Goals. UNFPA is also actively supporting the African Union's campaign to end child marriage.



THE ROYAL COMMONWEALTH SOCIETY



Youth campaigners in Zambia **Photo:** Jessica Lea/Department for International Development

The Royal Commonwealth Society (RCS) has worked with governments, the Commonwealth Secretariat and Plan UK to advocate for increased action to end child marriage and tackle gender inequality. The RCS has launched the Commonwealth Youth Gender and Equality Network (CYGEN), comprising young policy experts

working together on girls' and women's rights within the Commonwealth, including a focus on child marriage and FGM/C. The RCS, Plan UK and young advocates launched a research report on the role of education in ending child marriage at the 2015 Commonwealth Conference of Education Ministers.



# GOVERNMENT OF BANGLADESH

The commitment, made by the Honourable Prime Minister of Bangladesh at Girl Summit 2014, provided an opportunity for advocacy and action against child marriage in the country. A Bangladesh Girl Summit was held in October 2014, jointly organised by the Ministry of Women and Children Affairs (MOWCA) and BRAC, a leading Bangladeshi NGO. This further amplified efforts to strengthen national legislation and policy frameworks to eliminate child marriage.

The government of Bangladesh is revising the 1929 Child Marriage Restraint Act and finalising the National Plan of Action for Ending Child Marriage with development partners. The government has declared 29 September as Child Marriage Prevention Day in Bangladesh.

MOWCA is implementing child marriage prevention programmes while the Governance and Innovation Unit under the Prime Minister's Office is organising training programmes on child marriage.



Photo: UNICEF/Naser Siddique

#YouthForChange  
#YouthForChange  
#YouthForChange



Youth For Change **Photo:** Russell Watkins/  
Department for International Development

#YouthForChange is a youth-led movement inspired by Girl Summit 2014. A committed panel of young people from across the world came together to ensure young people's voices are heard in the vital fight against harmful practices affecting girls. Since Girl Summit 2014, #YouthForChange, with support from Plan UK and the UK government, have launched an online petition on gender-based violence and education, created a video on myths and misconceptions around FGM and a mini series of poems on girls' rights, empowerment and violence. They have built networks, including with The Girl Generation, Girls Not Brides, Saheliya Project, The National Theatre of Scotland and Contact Manchester, to ensure the voices of young people are being heard.



Photo credit: Newsha Tavakolian/TooYoungToWed /The Girl Generation

# The Girl Generation

Launched in October 2014, The Girl Generation is a communications initiative working to galvanise and amplify the growing Africa-led movement to end FGM.

Supporting the movement to grow its voice, they are building a collective of organisations and individuals behind a common vision and equipping members to communicate more effectively and positively about ending FGM. The Girl Generation is spreading positive stories of change across Africa, and calling for increased resourcing for efforts to end FGM.

Supported by an inspirational range of young women's rights and FGM activist advisors and funded by the UK government, activities are now in full swing. With over 60 member organisations from across the globe, more from Africa than from any other continent, their membership is growing rapidly. Activities have begun in Kenya and The Gambia with new countries, including Nigeria, coming on board in late 2015.

Anyone can become part of The Girl Generation by signing up online.

## Canada

The government of Canada has continued to intensify efforts to address CEFM since Girl Summit 2014, having announced almost C\$49 million since 2013 to support targeted programming to end the practice. This support includes a C\$20 million contribution to UNICEF, which has contributed to building capacity and increasing political will to address the issue.

Additionally, since Girl Summit 2014, Canada has provided more than C\$1.6 million to over 70 small, local projects focused on CEFM in over 40 countries, through the Canada Fund for Local Initiatives, and announced C\$8 million towards similar future initiatives. Canada has also supported efforts to end CEFM through the African Union Campaign to End Child Marriage. Canada co-led with Zambia the first-ever substantive resolution on CEFM at the United Nations General Assembly, which was unanimously adopted with 116 co-sponsors.

Domestically, Canada has introduced new legislation to strengthen Canadian laws to prevent early and forced marriage.



Girls Not Brides' Global Member Meeting in Morocco **Photo:** Hassan Ouazzani/Girls Not Brides

# Girls Not Brides

**Girls Not Brides is committed to ensuring that progress in global efforts to end child marriage translates into change for the 15 million girls married every year.**



Girls Not Brides now has almost 500 members in over 70 countries. Some 250 members from over 63 countries came together at their Global Member Meeting in Morocco in May 2015 for three days of strategising, capacity building and shared learning.

Drawing from the experiences of its diverse membership, Girls Not Brides continues to increase the evidence base, highlight

progress and grow the global movement to end child marriage.

148 Girls Not Brides members sent a joint letter to the Open Working Group developing the draft post-2015 framework calling for a target on child marriage. Through advocacy and membership mobilisation, Girls Not Brides continues to focus on ensuring that a target is ultimately included in the final Sustainable Development Goals.



Since Girl Summit 2014, Integrate Bristol have been delivering FGM awareness in schools in the UK, providing support to organisations wishing to start their own groups and training front line professionals in FGM Safeguarding. Through this work they have reached 30,000 people, including

through the development of a media based educational resource for use in schools.

In February 2015, Integrate Bristol hosted a conference on ending FGM and violence against women and girls. There were 400 participants, including teachers, medical professionals, social workers and police representatives. Integrate Bristol have made a new music video reiterating their commitment to ending gender based violence and providing a tribute to the late Efua Dorkenoo OBE, founder of The Girl Generation.

In March 2015, Stop FGM Middle East spoke about FGM in Iran at UN Women's side event at the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW). WADI also submitted a report on FGM in Iran to the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child to encourage the UN to officially recognise the existence of FGM in Iran.

WADI and UNICEF have supported the Kurdish Regional Government in

Iraq's campaign against FGM, tackling all sectors of society. This has included training midwives and police, providing village education, lectures in schools and awareness-raising films on television.

WADI is planning to open a Research and Consultation Center for FGM and Reproductive Health in Suleymania, Iraq.

**I hope my daughter will have good health, and I hope she will do the same for her daughters and avoid cutting.**

**Asseta, Burkina Faso, who teaches people in her village about the dangers of FGM.**



## THE WITH AND FOR GIRLS COLLECTIVE

Girl Summit 2014 saw four organisations, initiated by the Stars Foundation, commit to creating awards to empower strong local organisations working with and for girls. Now a group of eight, the 'With and For Girls Collective' is made up of: EMpower, MamaCash, NoVo Foundation, Plan UK, Global Fund for Children, Nike Foundation, The Malala Fund and Stars Foundation. The collective has committed a combined \$1million to award 20 girl-focused organisations with up to \$50,000 in flexible funding.

They have created girl judging-panels and this year's winners will help shape next year's girl-led organisations receive the flexible funding they deserve.

# CHILDREN'S DIGNITY FORUM, TANZANIA



In August 2014, the Children's Dignity Forum (CDF), in partnership with UNFPA Tanzania, Graça Machel Trust, Tanzania Media Women Association and the Ministry of Community Development Gender and Children, launched a national campaign to end child marriage in Tanzania known as Child Marriage Free Zone. This is being piloted in the Mara Region, where CDF is working to address child marriage and FGM and champion the rights of girls.

CDF and UNFPA have formed a committee on abandoning FGM and child marriage in the Mara region. The committee has influenced two communities to abandon FGM and child marriage and successfully reached 13 Kurya communities, which have talked publicly about abandoning the practices for the first time. With support from CDF, the government of Tanzania signed the Girl Charter in February 2015.



Comissão para a Cidadania e Igualdade de Género  
Presidência do Conselho de Ministros

## Government of Portugal

Since Girl Summit 2014, Portugal has worked to implement the government's National Programme of Action for the Prevention and Elimination of FGM. Interventions have been particularly focused on the health sector. Two new postgraduate courses have been promoted for health professionals who work in areas of greatest risk. These courses prepare doctors and nurses to provide training for, and raise awareness among, local stakeholders. The government of Portugal has also taken measures to strengthen the law that prohibits FGM.



The Population Council is leading a major FGM/C Research

Programme, funded by the UK government, focused on understanding what works to end FGM/C. In addition the Council is developing and evaluating cost-effective, sustainable approaches to delaying marriage in child marriage "hotspots" in sub-saharan Africa. The BALIKA project is evaluating approaches to prevent child marriage and improve life opportunities for girls in rural Bangladesh. A programme in Zambia helps vulnerable adolescent girls avoid early marriage, sexually transmitted infections and unintended pregnancies.

The Abriendo Oportunidades project in Belize, Guatemala, and Mexico, provides vulnerable Mayan girls with skills and support to improve their lives by increasing their social support networks, connecting them with role models and mentors, and providing training on life skills.

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**Since July 2014 girl summits have been held in Bangladesh, Ethiopia and Uganda**



theguardian

Global Multimedia Campaign to

# End FGM

In the last year, the Guardian's Global Media campaign has amplified the grassroots work of campaigners, particularly Jaha Dukureh and Domtilla Chesang, encouraging wider coverage and a higher profile for the work to end FGM in a generation.

Since Girl Summit 2014, the media campaign has supported the work of Kenyan campaigners using posters and community radio networks to amplify their work and developed media grants with Kenyan media houses.

Together with Jaha Dukureh, the media campaign has organised a Youth Summit in The Gambia, trained 65 Gambian journalists reporting on FGM, and helped Jaha secure government land for a women's centre.

## ORCHID PROJECT



WORKING TOGETHER TO END  
FEMALE GENITAL CUTTING

Orchid Project continue to work with partners towards the abandonment of Female Genital Cutting (FGC). December 2014 saw 121 communities in the Fouta, Senegal abandon FGC; 42 as a result of Orchid's Social Mobilisation project with Tostan.

Orchid held an event in the Danish Parliament, where Mah Cissé shared how she led 14 communities from Bamako in abandoning, and a panel event at CSW on FGC in the Middle East and Asia, comprised of activists from Iran, Iraq and Indonesia.



Dramatisation to raise awareness of child marriage  
**Photo:** Sujag Sansar Organisation

## SUJAG SANSAR ORGANISATION, NEPAL



Sujag Sansar Organization works with local song and dance groups, who perform at marriage ceremonies and Village Autaks (male speaking houses) to raise awareness of the detrimental impact of CEFM. Through this work they have reached over 1,300 individuals through effective use of theatre and media.

# INTERNATIONAL HORN UNIVERSITY, SOMALILAND



Following Girl Summit 2014, a representative of the International Horn University (IHU) met with the First Lady and the

Minister of Religious Affairs

to discuss the role religion and the Government could play in ending FGM.

The IHU hosted a conference on FGM in Somaliland, with participation from the UN, Ministry of Labour representatives and the First Lady. The outcomes of the conference included agreement on community sensitisation to be taken forward by religious leaders, development of awareness programmes for health professionals and commitment of relevant ministries to implement policy, including providing support to the FGM Act and implementation of FGM Act after approval. A declaration of continued commitment was also made by religious leaders and communities in bringing about an end to FGM in Somaliland.



**In the past year the Global Fund for Women has given grants totalling more than \$3 million to 166 organisations working across the globe to empower girls and adolescents**



**NATIONAL INTER RELIGIOUS NETWORK ON**

**VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN, (NIRN) NEPAL**

In the year since Girl Summit 2014, NIRN has launched the Partnership with Religious Network and Structure to end child marriage and other harmful practices to engage religious leaders and communities to reform entrenched beliefs. The network has developed a theologically based manual that emphasises women's and children's right to safety. Through this network, religious leaders have educated around 180,000 people.

**PUNJAB COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN, PAKISTAN**



The Punjab Commission on the Status of Women helpline provides information and referrals and takes complaints of women, including of perceived threat of early marriage. The helpline also provides information on new laws and measures taken in Punjab such as the Punjab Family Laws and Marriage Restraint Act 2015 that set out enhanced punishment for perpetrators of child marriages and mandatory registration of marriages with consent of both the bride and groom.



The Tackling FGM Initiative is a coalition of independent UK funders made up

of Trust for London, the Esmée Fairbairn Foundation, Rosa Fund and Comic Relief.

In the past year, they have funded over 40 grass roots organisations to deliver activities to end FGM in the UK. Through this funding, their grantees have: Trained over 100 champions to spread abandonment messages to over 3,000 community members in the UK; engaged over 400 men from affected communities including imams and priests; trained over 1,600 health, education and social work professionals in protecting children; educated over 5,000 children and young people on keeping safe; provided counselling and specialist services to over 500 FGM survivors and made over 30 referrals of children at risk to social services.

Their grantees have developed imaginative approaches to engage hard-to-reach communities affected by FGM including providing advocacy and support to pregnant women with FGM, reaching out to community members and employing a range of creative activities such as spoken word performances, theatre, flash mobs and films.

28 Too Many has partnered with sports development charity Cricket Without Boundaries and inspirational cricket team The Maasai Cricket Warriors to develop a pioneering sport based anti-FGM programme.

During the project more than 1,750 boys and girls received cricket coaching and FGM awareness training. 25 adults including teachers, youth workers and health professionals were trained as coaches. The community committed to end FGM and take the message to neighbouring villages.

## STRENGTHENING INTERNATIONAL COMMITMENT THROUGH UN RESOLUTIONS

December 2014; first ever UN General Assembly resolution on Child, Early and Forced Marriage and Second UN resolution on FGM Both - adopted by consensus

June 2015; first Human Rights Council resolution on Child Early and Forced Marriage - adopted by consensus.



**Alimatu Dimonekene**  
speaking at Girl Summit 2014

**Photo:** Russell Watkins/Department  
for International Development

## Girl Summit 2014

'Girl Summit 2014 was a pivotal moment and a chance to change the status quo and turn rhetoric into action. We are already working hard to prevent these harmful practices; what we need now is the political will and financial commitment to scale up effective programmes. The Summit secured substantial commitments and pledges from various governments, organisations and individuals which together can bring about lasting change' **Alimatu Dimonekene, Award-winning FGM Activist and opening speaker at Girl Summit 2014.**

We would like to express our thanks to all those individuals, governments and organisations who provided updates on their work. More information and a full list of progress against government commitments can be found on Girl Summit 2014 website: [www.girlsummit2014.org](http://www.girlsummit2014.org)

We would like to pay tribute to Efua Dorkenoo OBE, tireless campaigner over many years to end FGM/C, founding Director of The Girl Generation and adviser to Girl Summit 2014, who passed away in October 2014. Her tremendous legacy continues to inspire the movement to end FGM/C.