

Annex 1: Youth Action Plan for the Melaka Youth Declaration on A Global Youth Partnership to End Child Marriage:

We, youth delegates from twenty two (22) countries attending the **International Conference on Child Marriage – “Strength in Unity, Girls are not Brides - A Global Youth Partnership to End Child Marriage”**, from 19th – 23rd May 2016 hereby pledge to develop and implement our **Youth Action Plan** incorporating the following objectives.

I. Objectives

- ***To increase*** awareness about the harmful practice and consequences of child marriage on individuals, families, society and the economy.
- ***To contribute*** to the development and implementation of monitoring and preventive mechanisms to address child marriages, and work towards recovery and reintegration of existing child brides.
- ***To build*** a network of professionals (lawyers, psychologists, behavioral counsellors, social workers, educators, mentors, doctors, journalists, media professionals, religious leaders, and law enforcement representatives) committed to the prevention of child marriage, recovery and reintegration of existing child brides.

To this end we resolve to:

II. Actions/Steps/Activities

Objective 1: Increase awareness about the harmful practice and consequences of child marriage on individuals, families, society and the economy.

1. To conduct workshops on gender sensitization and child rights with the inclusion of two schools teachers initially (one Public / Government and one Community Private School), and later scale up for increased engagement and wider reach.
2. To conduct workshops on sex education and consequences of early pregnancy for young boys and girls in collaboration with parents and teachers.
3. To organize awareness camps for primary school children on child marriage and harmful practices, sexual abuse and exploitation, as well as encourage them to raise their voice against incidents of sexual abuse and exploitation, and to report such incidents to parents, elders at home or school and relevant authorities.
4. To identify and execute dissemination of awareness information programs through online, offline or print media for the general public.

Objective 2: Contribute to development and implementation of monitoring and preventive mechanisms to address child marriages and work towards recovery and reintegration of existing child brides.

1. To establish contacts with individuals, social activists, organizations and local Government institutions, working at the grassroots level to collect data and evidence on incidents relating to child marriages.
2. To empower youth volunteer community as peer educators and identify ambassadors from the community of child bride survivors to join hands in taking preventive and reporting mechanism initiatives to community members.
3. To create a corpus fund for the recovery and reintegration of child marriage survivors which will help them pursue their education and receive necessary health care support.
4. To design training, capacity building and development programs for the financial livelihood and social upliftment of survivors. These programs will focus on areas such as entrepreneurship, skills identification, skill development and personality development.
5. To create a helpline for support, assistance and physical intervention for existing and potential victims.
6. To educate members of the public on legal dimensions of rights of children, women as well as existing and new policy development which are applicable to them.

Objective 3: Build a dedicated network of professionals (lawyers, psychologists, behavioral counsellors, social workers, educators, nutrition experts, mentors, doctors, journalists, media professionals) committed to the prevention of child marriage and rehabilitation of existing child brides.

1. To establish a rescue center in local areas with the help of youth volunteers and community ambassadors / representatives within the respective areas.
2. To create and execute awareness programs to be conducted by youth volunteers for professionals, experts and other industry members. These programs will focus on educating them on the activities and objectives of the rescue center, and enroll them as volunteers and participate in activities of the center.
3. To reach out and identify possible areas of collaboration with existing Government and private bodies for additional support.

III. Timeline

Pilot Study of 3 months: (June – August 2016)

A. Objective 1: Increase awareness about the practice and consequences of child marriage on individual, family, society and the economy.

1. 2 workshops on gender sensitization in two schools
2. 2 workshops on sex education for parents
3. 1 camp for primary school children

B. Objective 2: Contribute to development and implementation of the monitoring and preventive mechanisms to address child marriages and work towards recovery and reintegration of existing child brides.

1. Connect with 5 individuals and 5 public / private entities
2. 10 youth volunteers and at least 1 child marriage survivor as an ambassador.
3. 2 sessions for the survivors on life coping
4. Prepare initial plan, seek partnerships and build identifiable infrastructures
5. 2 activities targeted at members of the public

C. Objective 3: Build a dedicated network of professionals (lawyers, psychologists, behavioral counsellors, social workers, educators, nutrition experts, mentors, doctors, journalists, media professionals) committed to the prevention of child marriage and rehabilitation of existing child brides.

1. At least one rescue center in the local area.
2. At least one lawyer, doctor, psychologist and media professional.
3. Collaboration with at least 2 entities.