**THE GLOBAL COMMITMENT TO ENDING CHILD MARRIAGE BY 2030.**

Target 5.3 of the Sustainable Development Goals calls on governments to: *Eliminate all harmful practices, such as child, early and forced marriage and female genital mutilation.* The indicator for target 5.3 will be the percentage of women aged 20-24 who were married or in a union before age 15 and before age 18. Countries will have to regularly report on progress toward achieving the targets.

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**CHILDMARRIAGE AROUND THE WORLD**

- **15 MILLION** girls a year marry before the age of 18
- **1.2 BILLION** women will have married as children by 2050 if there is no reduction in child marriage
- **720 MILLION** women alive today were married before the age of 15
- **1 IN 4 GIRLS** globally are married before the age of 18
- **250 MILLION** women alive today were married before the age of 15
- **156 MILLION** men alive today were married before the age of 18

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**WHAT NEEDS TO BE DONE**

Our discussions with members and partners have consistently pointed to a number of key actions that will be crucial for us all in the immediate term:

1. **Hold governments accountable to their international, regional and national commitments.**
   - to particular to developing ambitious plans for implementing target 5.3 of the Sustainable Development Goals with clear indicators for progress.

2. **Develop, implement and fund comprehensive policies, programmes and plans**
   - to end child marriage and support married girls, in partnership with civil society and other key stakeholders.
   - This might involve the development of targeted national strategies and/or integration of child marriage into related strategies for girls and children.

3. **Continue to grow and strengthen the movement**
   - by involving new stakeholders, developing new partnerships, and supporting new champions.
   - Ensure that young people are at the forefront of the movement.

4. **Celebrate and share successes**
   - including case studies of individuals overcoming child marriage.
   - Also promote a better future for their girls, of policy change or programmatic initiatives which have had a large-scale impact and ultimately of regions and countries where child marriage has been tackled in a holistic and comprehensive manner.

5. **Engage related sectors**
   - such as those addressing education, health or violence — at global, regional, national and local levels, so that they integrate a focus on ending child marriage into their work.

6. **Learn from what works and what doesn’t**
   - so that efforts to end child marriage are based on the latest evidence.

7. **Increase funding for efforts which prevent child marriage and support married girls,**
   - and ensure the necessary support for grassroots groups working directly with those affected.
   - In particular, target investment in education and health programmes for girls, as well as in initiatives which tackle social norms over the long term.

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**CAUSES AND IMPACT OF CHILDMARRIAGE**

**The causes are complex:**

- Rooted in gender inequality
- Insecurity
- Lack of alternative options for girls
- Poverty
- Tradition
- Reduced access to education
- Domestic violence
- HIV infection
- Continued cycles of violence
- Increased risk in pregnancy and childbirth
- Violations of human rights

**The impact includes:**

- Child marriage stifles girls’ potential to thrive.
- 45% in South Asia
- 39% in sub-Saharan Africa
- 23% in Latin America and the Caribbean
- 18% in the Middle East and North Africa

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**THE ROLE OF DIFFERENT STAKEHOLDERS**

**Girls and boys**

- Speak up and act to challenge child marriage and mobilise peers and the wider community.
- For girls who are or have been married, consider sharing their own personal experiences and take part in broader efforts to end child marriage.

**Families and communities**

- Act as role models by not marrying girls off.
- Encourage education for girls.
- Challenge gender norms by changing expectations for women and girls.

**Those who create an enabling environment for change**

- **International bodies**: encourage and monitor action across countries; provide technical assistance; ensure child marriage is addressed across development and rights agendas; hold governments accountable.
- **Governments**: show long-term political leadership to tackle child marriage; develop comprehensive cross-government, well-resourced policies and strategies, accompanied by strong and rigorous implementation frameworks.
- **Civil society**: engage with governments on implementation to target the most vulnerable, share local knowledge about what works; hold governments accountable.
- **Parliamentarians**: be role models for their communities; draft effective legal frameworks; ensure better resourced policies and programmes from government.
- **Blogs**: amplify the voices of those affected or at risk of child marriage.
- **Donors**: support interventions which aim to prevent child marriage; support married girls; share learning about solutions.
- **Media**: encourage greater action on the issue; highlight solutions.
- **Religious and traditional leaders**: foster attitudes and behaviour change in the community; collaborate to spread larger-scale messages.