



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.



GIRLS NOT BRIDES

The Global Partnership to End Child Marriage

CHILD MARRIAGE¹ 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

Child marriage occurs around the world, and cuts across countries, cultures, religions and ethnicities:

Percentage of 20-24 year old girls married before 18:



Child marriage also persists in some communities in Europe and North America.

720 MILLION women alive today were married before the age of 18

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

¹ Source of statistics: UNICEF, Ending Child Marriage: Progress and Prospects, 2014 / UNICEF, The State of the World's Children, 2016. * Child marriage is defined as a formal union or an informal union where one or both of the parties is under 18.

CAUSES AND IMPACT OF CHILD MARRIAGE

The causes are complex:

Rooted in gender inequality	Insecurity
Tradition	Lack of alternative options for girls
Poverty	

The impact includes:

Violations of human rights	Domestic violence
Increased risk in pregnancy and childbirth	Reduced access to education
HIV infection	Continued cycles of poverty

Communities and countries feel the impact as child marriage stifles girls' potential to thrive.

THE ROLE OF DIFFERENT STAKEHOLDERS

We all have a role to play in the next phase of the global movement. Only when all of us see the role that we can play and we act towards a collective vision will we be able to make significant progress. This includes:

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.
- Youth:** amplify the voices of those affected or at-risk of child marriage.
- Donors:** support interventions which aim to prevent child marriage and support married girls; share learning about evidence.
- 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.

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,** in 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; of communities who have united to 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. Ensure the necessary research, documentation and evaluation of programmes and policies, and learn from other sectors and initiatives which address social norm change.
- 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 norm change over the long term.