Question of: Child Marriage,

Forum: ECOSOC Status of Women,

Main Submitter: French Republic,

Co-Submitters: The People’s Democratic Republic of Algeria, Commonwealth of Australia, The People’s Republic of Bangladesh, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Canada, The People’s Republic of China, The Arab Republic of Egypt, The Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, The Federal Republic of Germany, The Republic of Madagascar, The Republic of Mozambique, The Islamic Republic of Pakistan, The Republic of Tanzania, United Arab Emirates,

STATUS OF WOMEN,

*Fully alarmed* that child marriage has been recognized by the UN as a violation of human rights. Adding that it has a negative impact on children around the world, which feeds into the cycle of poverty, illiteracy, and general instability in countries worldwide. Adding that marriage shall be entered into only with the free and full consent of the intending parties. Similar provisions are included in 1996 international covenant on economic, social and cultural rights and the international covenants on civil and political rights,

*Emphasizing*that18 is a legal age for marriage, and 16 years as an exception and a possible age for marriage in case of acceptance from the court of the justice for the family affaires. However, the legal age for consent to marriage is still lower than 16 in some countries, such as Iran (9 years),

*Having studied* that young teenage girls are more likely to die due to complications in pregnancy and childbirth than women in their 20s; their infants are more likely to be stillborn or die in the first month of life, *Noting with deep concern*the existence of 250 million forced marriages today all around the world, along with 18 million forced marriages each year according to SOS Children's Villages,

*Nothing with regret* that more than 700 million women alive today were married as children,

*Noting further that* more than 1 in 3 – or some 250 million – were married before 15. Highlighting the fact that girls who marry before they turn 18 are less likely to remain in school and more likely to experience domestic violence,

*Realizing* that the prevalence of child marriage in less developed countries as well as the lack of proper action and implementation of law in certain countries, proven by the fact that 700 million women today were married before the age of 18,

*Reaffirming* the unanimous UN resolution to prevent child marriage in 2015 which was signed by 85 different countries including those with very high rates of child marriage, as well as drawing the house's attention to the fact that ending child marriage has been listed on the draft SDGs as a post-2015 objective,

*Noting with satisfaction* the current effort put into solving this issue through already established organizations such as Girls Not Brides, among countless others,

1-Invites the Humans Rights Watch to fund and host a campaign with the main goal of raising awareness on child marriage

1. Introducing parents to the dangers that they put their young girls in will minimize their thoughts of marrying them at young a age, the campaign will mainly target the parents, so that through the parents we shall prevent child marriage and allow education for future generations;

2- Recommends educating and empowering girls in order to minimize the number of forced illegal marriages each year

1. Educating girls is considered as an advantage, uneducated girls do not recognise their basic human rights. Giving them a chance to education will make them understand their rights and value them, education gives them access to a social, community-based life full of achievements;
2. Empowering girls is one of the main keys to decrease child marriage, working on developing girls’ confidence and self-esteem, along with introducing and teaching them their female rights will prepare them to say no in case of forced illegal marriage
3. adding extra curriculum at schools in order to convey this act;

 3- Urges the implementation of stricter laws and stricter registration system in order to prevent child marriage

1. Create stricter governmental laws that don’t allow marriage before the age of 18, along with applying a certain punishment in case of forced child marriage
2. Infringement of this law will result in a prison sentence of no less than 3 years, depending on the country and the case;

4- Requests teaching immigrants the native language of the country, to be able to understand the country’s culture and laws to decrease child marriage

1. Considering that the immigrants are living in the country, they’d have to follow its laws. By teaching them the language they will be capable of understanding the law and start considering 18 as the legal age for marriage which will result a decrease in child marriage;

5- Further recommends for developed countries to send professional educators prepared by the UN

1. In order to introduce women to their rights, and let them know about high technology
2. The countries participating are the United Kingdom, Canada, Germany, French republic, Austria, United States of America and Italy ;

6- Considers 16 years a young age, where marriage shouldn’t be acceptable. At the age of 16 there is still a lack of maturity which means that girls are not still ready mentally or physically for marriage;

7- Calls upon public figures in each and every country to speak about this issue and the importance of eradicating it

1. The creation of a "say no to child marriage" day on a set date every year until the issue is completely eradicated

1. This day can be hosted in different places with high rates of child marriage in each country
2. The event will be organized by volunteers and funded by donations as well as the UN countries that are able to provide any funds
3. Advertising will be through social media as well as volunteers going out to speak in the rural areas where child marriage is more prevalent
4. Public figures that are known by the people attending and admired by them will facilitate convincing them of the cruelty of this issue as the people trust them;

8- Requires the creation of a UN conference to review the legal age for marriage in all countries according to cultural, religious, and social norms

1. Any country with an age that is unacceptable such as Iran will change it's laws
2. All amended laws will be presented as a resolution at the end of the conference
3. Calls UN countries are to attend this conference hosted in Paris, France on a date that is convenient to the representatives;

9- Calls upon all countries against this violent act to participate in the event “ending child marriage towards a more gender equitable world organized by Canada and co organized by Italy by all supportive actions.