

CONCEPT NOTE : 2018 : WHY WE ARE STILL UNABLE TO END CHILD MARRIAGES

Intro : TBC - UN/DPI

Host/Facilitator:

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It's 2018 and even today 1 in 5 Girls in this World are said to be married before they turn 18. If there is no reduction in child marriage, the global number of women married as children will reach 1.2 billion by 2050. In the most recent UNICEF release of data concerning Child Marriage an estimated 16% of girls aged 15-19 are currently married. Among that data ¼ adolescent women in West and Central Africa are in unions/living together. There are concerning biological facts related to Child Marriage, some studies report birth defects because of early childbearing before biological maturation. Many girls who marry before 18 leave school and do not pursue further education. Also, correlations of adolescent marriage have shown increase in Domestic Violence victimization.

In 2015, We decided to step it up and incorporate an organization here in New York. Fundacion Luz Maria is in Argentina and Luz Maria Foundation here in New York. We continuously worked to provide resources to survivors of domestic Violence for women who cannot reach mainstream resources. Throughout the career of the Foundation it has provided support to girls & women to empower them. Our Foundation has provided continuous effort to create global networks that provide resources to the victims affected by Sexual Misconduct. The organization has played key roles in UN conferences and other international efforts to create a platform for Gender Equality.

Established in 2001, The Women's Health and Education Center (WHEC) undertakes initiatives with the United Nations (UN) and the World Health Organization (WHO), to achieve the Sustainable Development Goal SDG-5. We have an e-learning project/program (A Global Forum) in Maternal and Child Health title: WomensHealthSection.com which is serving in 227 countries/territories, and more than 1.4 million visitors/month; 14 million subscribers per year. We are about 650 physicians and healthcare providers from 35 different countries who are in the core group. Medical complications of pregnancy may have adverse effects on the mother, fetus and newborn. The physiologic changes that occur during a normal gestation may aggravate a maternal disease process and will have much more deeper impacts on a child.

How shall we address these issues globally :

- Providing Aid to global networks to create more awareness on child marriage at the grassroots and rural areas because governmental regulation cannot reach effectively in these areas.
- Providing more access to Quality Education to not only the Girls but Mothers as well in order to empower the whole family.
- Make more stricter laws and severe punishments to end the Child Marriages.
- Support UNICEFs work in reducing Child Marriage by connecting with the grassroots and local Non Profits working at the grassroots level.

Through use of international networks we will continue its work to prevent Child Marriage via community activism. In coordination with other ESOSOC and DPI organizations to reduce all gender based violence. We hope to see Planet 50-50 by 2030 become a reality, and gender equality a precedent