

Tuesdays @ UNDPINGO

A Strategy for Development

https://outreach.un.org/ngorelations/sites/outreach.un.org/files/article_files/chat_17_april_2018-_rsvp.pdf



Why do child marriages still exist in today's world?
Their rights, their future

Child Marriage is a deep-rooted issue especially in rural communities. It is time to focus on these issues and get stricter laws. Let us join forces to eradicate it.

**End Child Marriage – We Welcome everyone
A Call for Action**

Moderator: Jaslin Kaur, Co-Founder, RefuGirl

Speakers: Helen Belachew, Gender and Development Manager, Programmes Division UNICEF; Luz Maria Utrera, Fundacion Luz Maria and Upasana Chauhan @ Women's Health and Education Center (WHEC)

Concept Note:

17 April 2018, why we are still unable to end child marriages? It's 2018 and even today 1 in 5 girls in this world are said to be married before they turn 18. Child marriage is a grave threat to the lives and prospects of young girls. It violates their rights, denies them of their childhood, disrupts their education, jeopardizes their health and limits their opportunities. 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 and 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 many concerning biological facts related to child marriages, pregnancies and childbirths. Please visit: <http://www.womenshealthsection.com/content/obs/obs002.php3>

How does WHEC 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 not only to the girls but mothers as well to empower the whole family.
- Make more stricter laws and severe punishments to end the child marriages.
- **Support UNICEF's work** in reducing child marriage by connecting with the grassroots and local non-profits working at the grass roots level.
- Through use of international networks WHEC will continue its work to prevent child marriage via community activism. In coordination with other ECOSOC and DPI organizations to reduce all gender- based violence.

We hope to see this mission by 2030 becomes a reality, and gender equality a precedent. Join the efforts. There are no strangers @ WHEC – only the friends you haven't met.

Discussion: <https://outreach.un.org/ngorelations/content/dpi-ngo-chat-series-why-do-child-marriages-stillexist-todays-world-17-april-2018>