



**Forum:** ECOSOC  
**Issue:** Addressing Child Marriage Issue Worldwide.  
**Student Officer:** Olivia Lin

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## Overview

In today's world, child marriage is still a serious issue that affect lots of countries and people. The Child Marriage issue mainly deals with the formal (or informal) marriage of a child under the age of 18 — generally the marriage of a young girl to an older boy or man. There are approximately 700 million women around the world today who were married as girls; a third of them were married before their 15th birthdays. This issue is mainly happening in developing countries in Africa and the Middle East. This problem will affect their health, education, and safety. Child brides are neither physically nor emotionally ready to become wives and mothers. They face more risks of experiencing dangerous complications in pregnancy and childbirth, contracting HIV/AIDS and suffering domestic violence. With little access to education and economic opportunities. They and their families are more likely to live in poverty. Child marriage is a human rights violation. Despite laws against it, the practice remains widespread: Globally, one in every five girls is married, or in the union, before reaching age 18. In the least developed countries, that number doubles – 40 percent of girls are married before age 18, and 12 percent of girls are married before age 15. Child marriage threatens girls' lives and health, and it limits their future prospects. Girls pressed into child marriage often become pregnant while still adolescents, increasing the risk of complications in pregnancy or childbirth. These complications are the leading cause of death among older adolescent girls.

## Key Terms

Child marriage:

Child marriage is a human rights violation. Despite laws against it, the practice remains widespread: Globally, one in every five girls is married, or in the union, before reaching age 18. In the least developed countries, that number doubles – 40 percent of girls are married before age 18, and 12 percent of girls are married before age 15.

Human rights:

The basic rights and freedoms to which all humans are considered to be entitled, often held to include the rights to life, liberty, equality, and a fair trial, freedom from slavery and torture, and freedom of thought and expression.

## Events

The global momentum and opportunities to make significant progress on ending child marriage have never been more favorable. The UNFPA-UNICEF Global Program to Accelerate Action to End Child Marriage offers a framework promoting the right of girls to delay marriage, addressing the conditions that keep the practice in place, and caring for girls already in the union. The program will focus on enabling girls at risk of child marriage to choose and direct their own futures, supporting households in demonstrating positive attitudes towards adolescent girls and strengthening the systems that deliver services to adolescent girls. It will also seek to ensure laws and policies protect and promote adolescent girls' rights, and highlight the importance of using robust data to inform policies relating to adolescent girls. The program targets adolescent girls (ages 10-19) at risk of child marriage or already in the union, in 12 selected countries: Bangladesh, Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Ghana, India, Mozambique, Nepal, Niger, Sierra Leone, Uganda, Yemen, Zambia. The countries were selected according to four criteria deemed important for additional United Nations investment and accelerated global progress—high prevalence of child marriage, large projected burden, government engagement, and regional distribution.



## Major Nations/Organizations

UNICEF( United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund)

The UNICEF is a United Nation origination focus on children's issue in the world. UNICEF works in 190 countries and territories to save children's lives, to defend their rights, and to help them fulfill their potential, from early childhood through adolescence. And also UNICEF believes that Every child has the right to grow up in a safe and inclusive environment. UNICEF works with partners around the world to promote policies and expand access to services that protect all children.

UNFPA(United Nations Population Fund)

UNFPA works in more than 150 countries and territories that are home to the vast majority of the world's people. Its mission: to ensure that every pregnancy is wanted, every childbirth is safe and every young person's potential is fulfilled.

## Important Documents/Passed Solutions

1.About child marriage - Girls Not Brides

[www.girlsnotbrides.org](http://www.girlsnotbrides.org)

2.Child marriage

[www.unicef.org](http://www.unicef.org)

3.UN past document

<https://www.unicef.org/protection/files/>

#### 4. Child marriage- Frequently Asked Questions

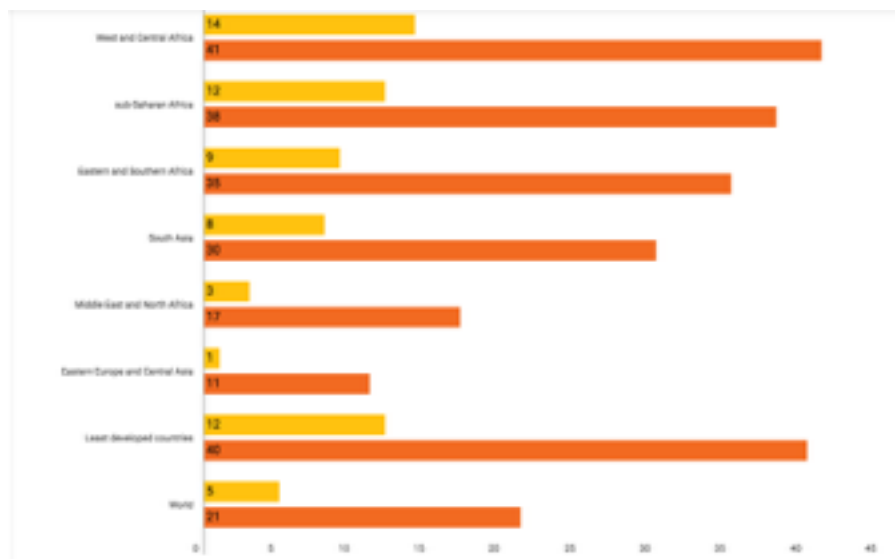
<https://www.unfpa.org/child-marriage-frequently-asked-questions>

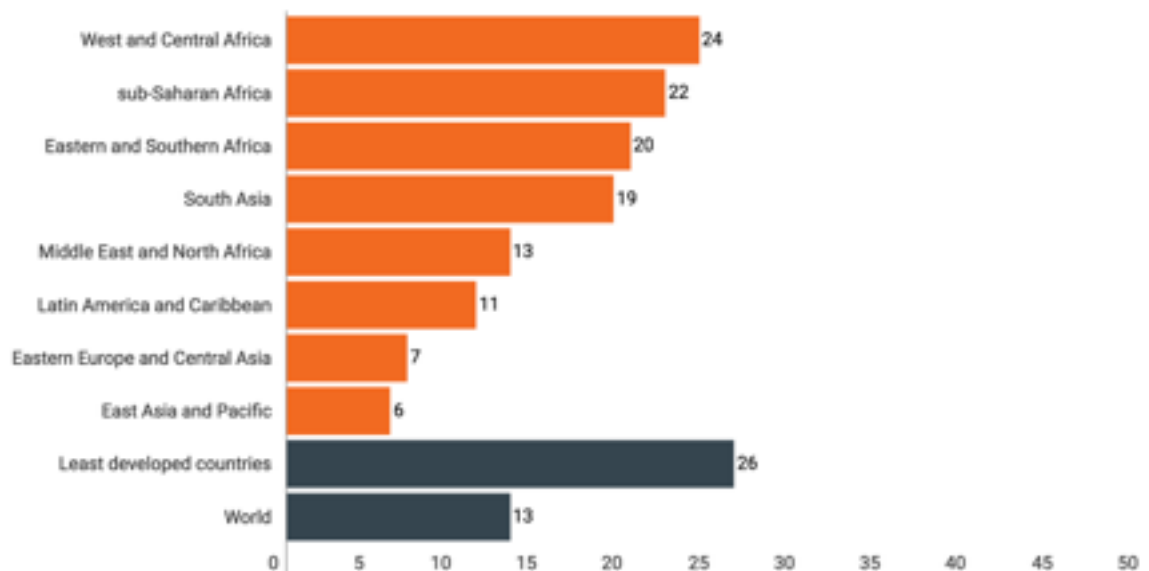
#### 5. Child Marriage Annex 1

<https://www.unfpa.org/resources/child-marriage-annex-1>

## Statistics

 Women 20-24 married by age 15  Women 20-24 married by age 18





## Possible Solutions

The discussion of Child marriage is always a very controversial issue. When the resolution has been made, delegates should check the actions and resolution about this topic. Make sure all the resolution should be based on every country's different situation. Delegates need to make sure they understand a country's reason for the existence of child marriage. Some reasons are Children want to marriage, parent encourage the child to marriage, the child selling.

The United Nation encourages the following solution:

Enacting and enforcing national laws that raise the age of marriage to 18, for both girls and boys.

Using data to identify and target geographic “hotspots” – areas with high proportions and numbers of girls at risk of child marriage.

Expanding prevention programs that empower girls at risk of child marriage and address the root causes underlying the practice.

Mitigating the harmful impact of child marriage on girls.

NGOs to help outline and draft your resolution in a more comprehensive way. If the Child marriage will take place in the resolution, delegates should address the way child marriage will have benefits to their family. In contrast, if the child marriage will not be solved, delegates should explain the reasons and effects specifically. Moreover, delegates should consider the issue comprehensively. The resolution should be including various reasons from different aspects including religion, government, history etc. , and the effects of child marriage on the individuals as well as the whole human society.

## Bibliography

(make sure your format is in MLA)

*Girlsnotbrides*. [www.girlsnotbrides.org/human-rights-council-adopts-2017-resolution-end-child-marriage-humanitarian-settings/](http://www.girlsnotbrides.org/human-rights-council-adopts-2017-resolution-end-child-marriage-humanitarian-settings/). Accessed 3 Nov. 2018.

*Girlsnotbrides*. [www.girlsnotbrides.org/about-child-marriage/](http://www.girlsnotbrides.org/about-child-marriage/). Accessed 4 Nov. 2018.

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