



American Model United Nations
Human Rights Council

HRC/I/1

SUBJECT OF RESOLUTION: Consequences of child, early and forced marriage

SUBMITTED TO: The Human Rights Council

The Human Rights Council,

1 *Recognizing* the imperative for Member States to combat the issue of child, early and forced marriage and
2 to address the needs and struggles of victims both during and after these marriages,

3 *Noting with satisfaction* the previous resolutions and agreements put in place by Member States and the
4 United Nations in efforts to combat this issue, including but not limited to A/HRC/RES/41/8, A/HRC/RES/29/8,
5 Sustainable Development Goal 5.3, the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the Convention on the Elimination
6 of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women and the UNFPA-UNICEF Global Programme to Accelerate Action
7 to End Child Marriage,

8 *Stressing* the fact that child, early and forced marriage is not unique to any one culture, religion or region,
9 and that it affects children across the globe,

10 *Emphasizing* that economic inequality and poverty lead to heightened financial pressures which play a
11 significant role in the continuation of child, early and forced marriage,

12 *Acknowledging* the severe economic and social stress and isolation that is placed on victims of early, child
13 and forced marriage,

14 *Fully aware* that the promotion of primary and secondary education for women and girls that promotes
15 gender equitable values is important to combating the issue of child, early and forced marriage,

16 *Bearing in mind* that initiatives to end child, early and forced marriage lack permanence if cultural, religious
17 and state leaders are not integrated within decision-making processes,

18 *Acknowledging* the importance of relying on local, communal and religious leaders to provide outreach and
19 education to their communities in a frame relevant to their culture, as mirrored in the success of programs such as
20 Tostan International and Pathfinder International,

21 *Noting* the difficulties in establishing accountability measures in areas in which tensions create an environ-
22 ment which helps to foster the practice of illegal activities such as child marriage, as well as the lack of data available
23 on these matters,

24 *Recognizing* the importance of improving judicial processes and legal aid in assisting victims of child, early
25 and forced marriages,

26 1. *Calls* on Member States to reaffirm their commitment to the UNFPA-UNICEF Global Programme to
27 End Child Marriage;

28 2. *Encourages* all Member States to ratify the Convention on the Rights of the Child and to set the minimum
29 age of marriage to 18 years of age;

30 3. *Urges* that current exceptions to the minimum 18 years of age requirement be phased out in a way that
31 is determined best by each individual Member State or regional group, so that the 2030 Sustainable Development
32 Goal 5.3 can be reached on time and that:

33 (a) No new exceptions to the minimum age are created;

34 (b) Full respect is given to each Member State's sovereignty;

35 4. *Asks for* regional actors, such as the African Union, the European Union, the Association of South-
36 east Asian Nations, the Union of South American Nations and other regional groups, to work with regional non-

37 governmental organizations to better serve as much of the population while avoiding direct infringements upon State
38 sovereignty;

39 5. *Suggests* the creation of legislation protecting women's economic rights and maintains equal treatment
40 under the law to help women maintain their economic independence and agency which is necessary to make their
41 own decisions concerning marriage through the:

42 (a) Elimination of taxes on sanitary products;

43 (b) Designation of women's income as their own and not their families;

44 6. *Requests* increased funding for various United Nations agencies, which contribute directly and indirectly
45 to women's economic empowerment, as empowered and independent women are less likely to be child brides or
46 tolerate it in their community, including support for the:

47 (a) United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women;

48 (b) The United Nations Development Program;

49 (c) United Nations Human Settlements Program;

50 7. *Calls for* the implementation of monetary resources in coordination with local leaders in order to advance
51 the economic position of women, including but not limited to:

52 (a) Grants designated specifically for women-owned businesses in order to allow for economic inde-
53 pendence, lessening the financial pressures for child marriage, with a specific focus on developing nations;

54 (b) Economic incentives which discourages child marriage and rather encourages consensual marriage
55 after the age of 18, such as housing grants;

56 8. *Recommends* that Member States partner with the United Nations Girls' Education Initiative and its 24
57 regional partners to improve access to education for women and girls through:

58 (a) Promoting the reduction of school-related gender-based violence;

59 (b) Encouraging families to keep their girls in primary school;

60 (c) Promoting the reduction of school-related gender-based violence;

61 (d) Focusing on marginalized and excluded groups of women and girls;

62 9. *Encourages* the creation of donation programs to supply teachers within these impoverished areas with
63 necessary supplies to help women acquire the skills necessary to be self-reliant, thus greatly reducing the risk of them
64 falling victim to early or forced marriages;

65 10. *Advises* the convening of experts, state leaders and cultural and faith-based leaders within their respective
66 communities to discuss causes and consequences of, as well as contextual solutions, to child, early and forced marriage;

67 11. *Recommends* the establishment of the Commission on Rural Educational Outreach with the goal of:

68 (a) Facilitating the implementation of educational policy recommendations by other United Na-
69 tions bodies, such as the United Nations Girls' Education Initiative, the Education Commission, United Nations
70 Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF);

71 (b) Working with community leaders and government departments to develop regional specific strate-
72 gies aimed at keeping young girls in school, including the potential implementation of rights education programs
73 designed to empower girls to challenge gender norms that perpetuate child marriage;

74 (c) Assigning global educational experts to receptive rural areas to help with program development;

75 (d) Courting partnerships with interested non-governmental organizations for the purpose of funding
76 and technical support;

77 (e) Planning ways for programs to be implemented into already existing local educational systems
78 when possible;

79 12. *Requests* Member States to report data on child, early and forced marriage, such as the numbers of such
80 marriages, when and where they occur, to the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund;

81 13. *Stresses* the importance of robust and comprehensive national birth and marriage registration systems
82 in ensuring that individuals entering into marriage are consenting and of age;

83 14. *Establishes* the foundation for a mental health service that can be offered to survivors of early, child and
84 forced marriage targeted by using data collected by UNICEF and national birth and marriage registration systems
85 through different programs including:

86 (a) Counseling sessions;

87 (b) Support groups;

88 (c) Reintegration training;

89 15. *Supports* local governments in their present and future efforts to draft laws aimed at protecting the
90 rights of children and ending child marriage;

91 16. *Suggests* that institutions be developed and be made accessible to assist victims of child, early and forced
92 marriage before, during and after their experience through resources and services, such as:

93 (a) Legal resources;

94 (b) Career-readiness training;

95 (c) Services for single mothers;

96 17. *Further supports* the sharing of legislation and legal expertise to Member States that request such support
97 in their efforts to address legal barriers to preventing child, early and forced marriage, whether or not those barriers
98 are due to laws or the enforcement of laws.

Passed by consensus, with 0 abstentions