UN General Assembly Panel Discussion on Child, Early and Forced Marriage Worldwide
Social media toolkit for Twitter

What: The UN General Assembly (UNGA) is organising the first-ever panel discussion on child, early and forced marriage and its implications for the post-2015 development agenda.

When: 10:00 – 13:00 ET, Friday 5 September.

How to participate: The panel discussion is likely to be live-streamed on webtv.un.org (to be confirmed).

Girls Not Brides will be live-tweeting the discussion at @GirlsNotBrides. Please join us using #endchildmarriage and #post2015.

Who:

- Ms Mabel van Oranje, Chair of *Girls Not Brides:* @MabelvanOranje
- Mr John Hendra, Assistant Secretary-General at UN Women: @johnunwomen @UN_Women
- Ms Nyaradzayi Gumbonzvanda, Goodwill Ambassador for the African Union Campaign to End Child Marriage: @vanyaradzayi
- Ms Ndodeye Bassey-Obongha, Girls' Power Initiative (GPI)
- Mr Amjad Rabi, UNICEF Nepal: @unicef_nepal
- Dr Anita Raj, UC San Diego: @AnitaRajUCSD

Sample messages for Twitter

Scope of child marriage

- 700 million women alive today were married before their 18th birthday. That's roughly 10% of world's population #endchildmarriage #post2015
- 280 million girls alive today are at risk of child marriage, according to @UNICEF http://bit.ly/1lEGDKZ #endchildmarriage #post2015
- With population growth, more & more girls are at risk of #childmarriage despite decline in % worldwide http://bit.ly/1lEGDKZ #post2015

Development costs of child marriage

- #Childmarriage has directly slowed down progress on 6 out of 8 #MDGs. It's time to address it in #post2015 development framework!
- #Childmarriage traps girls, their families & communities in a cycle of inter-generational poverty http://bit.ly/14dPn0U #post2015
- All too often, #childmarriage marks the end of a girl's #education http://bit.ly/1hpBWMW #endchildmarriage #post2015
- Girls who give birth before 15 are 5 times more likely to die in childbirth than women in their early 20s. http://bit.ly/1wFu5Ev #post2015
- Girls who marry before 18 are more likely to experience violence in marriage than girls who marry later http://bit.ly/1bkss7x #post2015

Effective solutions to end child marriage

- To #endchildmarriage, gov'ts need to set laws & policies that support girls + invest in services to empower girls & communities #post2015
- Laws aren't enough to #endchildmarriage. Gov'ts need to invest in policies, services & programmes that offer alternatives to girls #post2015

- Ending #childmarriage won't happen overnight. We need long-term investments into programmes that work & can be scaled up. #post2015
- Effective interventions to #endchildmarriage must be comprehensive & cross-sectoral. Here's what it could look like: http://bit.ly/1rfBU4j

Promising efforts to end child marriage

- Progress in Tanzania! Gov't & civil society join hands to launch first #endchildmarriage campaign http://bit.ly/1nWXvYF #post2015
- In Nepal, civil society coalition & Women Ministry are developing a national strategy to #endchildmarriage http://bit.ly/1l8mUTP #post2015
- Earlier this year, African Union launched 1st-ever continental campaign to #endchildmarriage in Africa http://bit.ly/ShWGQX #post2015
- In Zambia, traditional & religious leaders are stepping up to #endchildmarriage in their communities: http://aje.me/1pqQiF5 #post2015

Benefits of ending child marriage

- How can countries prosper if 1/2 of the population is left behind? #Endchildmarriage is key to a more prosperous & equal future. #post2015
- Reducing #childmarriage could speed up our efforts to improve the health of millions of women & girls http://bit.ly/1amlgoj #post2015
- #Endchildmarriage is key to achieving #genderequality. Strong target on #childmarriage must be included in #post2015 framework & #SDGs