

# ABOUT GIRLS NOT BRIDES



**GIRLS NOT BRIDES**

The Global Partnership to End Child Marriage

# WHAT IS GIRLS NOT BRIDES?

*Girls Not Brides* is a global partnership of over 500 civil society organisations from more than 70 countries. We are committed to ending child marriage and enabling girls to fulfil their potential. We share the conviction that every girl has the right to lead the life that she chooses and that, by ending child marriage, we can achieve a safer, healthier and more prosperous future for all.

Stronger together, *Girls Not Brides* members bring child marriage to global attention, build an understanding of what it will take to end this harmful practice and call for the laws, policies and programmes that will make a difference in the life of millions of girls.

## WHO ARE GIRLS NOT BRIDES MEMBERS?

Our strength is our diversity. *Girls Not Brides* members work across sectors including health, education, human rights and humanitarian response and range from small grassroots actors to large international organisations. Members are based in Africa, Asia, the Middle East, the Americas and Europe.

Members vary in size, location and the type of work they do – some are programme implementers and service providers working to end child marriage and support child brides; other organisations focus on research and advocacy, seeking to bring national, regional and international attention to this neglected problem.

## WHY WORK IN PARTNERSHIP WITH GIRLS NOT BRIDES?



### COLLABORATING TO ADVOCATE FOR CHANGE

Together, *Girls Not Brides* members develop and implement advocacy strategies to urge influential bodies – such as the United Nations General Assembly, the UN Human Rights Council and the African Union – to take action on child marriage. Many members work together in their countries to advocate for relevant national laws, policies or action.



### AMPLIFYING VOICE

*Girls Not Brides* members seize opportunities, such as International Day of the Girl Child or Day of the African Child, to speak collectively as a movement. *Girls Not Brides* also supports member organisations to ensure their voices are heard in influential global debates.

In 2014, *Girls Not Brides* advocated for a target to end child marriage to be included in the post-2015 Sustainable Development Goals and **176 members** signed onto joint letters to the Secretary General and working group drafting the goals. We were heard: a target addressing child marriage has been included under the gender equality goal in the final draft framework.

In 2015, *Girls Not Brides* co-ordinated input from civil society into the first substantive UN Human Rights Council resolution on child, early and forced marriage. This led to **strong joint recommendations** and a final text that incorporates many *Girls Not Brides* members' suggestions.

Ahead of the 2014 Girl Summit hosted by the UK Government and UNICEF, **more than 50 *Girls Not Brides* members** came together to develop common messages calling for targeted funding and a commitment to long-term programming to end child marriage. Our collective call was echoed throughout the Summit.



## STRENGTHENING BY SHARING

*Girls Not Brides* provides opportunities for members to increase the impact of their work by sharing their expertise and challenges in addressing child marriage through meetings, newsletters and online platforms, such as learning webinars. Members can also learn from new insights from global efforts to end child marriage.

*Girls Not Brides* is not a funding body; however, we constantly share information with members about potential funding opportunities, and encourage new donors to enter the field. Members can also benefit from capacity building webinars and other tools to support their fundraising efforts.



## POWER IN UNITY

*Girls Not Brides* fosters the critical connections that help members to enhance their work and break the isolation that grassroots groups working on this once-taboo issue have felt. We link up organisations working on child marriage in the same country or region and also introduce our members to relevant organisations working in different countries. We provide opportunities for members to interact in person, as well as online through learning webinars, calls and via specific email groups where they can share news and resources. Where possible, we connect member organisations with a variety of strategic stakeholders, including journalists and potential donors.

**'It's often challenging to find out which organisations are doing similar work in our countries. *Girls Not Brides* helps us to connect the dots and has helped us to strengthen national-level coordination'**

*Girls Not Brides* member, Uganda

# TOOLS FOR ACTION

**A wide range of tools and materials are available to support the work of all members and those working towards a child marriage-free world. These include:**



### NEWSLETTERS

Featuring advocacy, funding and other opportunities



### ONLINE RESOURCE CENTRE

Includes practical tools and resources on [www.GirlsNotBrides.org/resource-centre](http://www.GirlsNotBrides.org/resource-centre) to help build the capacity of *Girls Not Brides* members, for example on advocacy, programming, Monitoring & Evaluation, and how to work in partnership



### CHILD MARRIAGE IN THE NEWS

A twice-monthly bulletin highlighting the latest need-to-know news on child marriage as covered by global media outlets



### WEBINARS AND CONFERENCE CALLS

Real-time opportunities for members to increase their capacity in key areas of work, such as fundraising, as well share experiences and learn from each other



### INFOGRAPHICS AND SHARED MESSAGING FRAMEWORKS

To help make the case for action and to amplify our collective voice at crucial moments



### WEBSITE

Featuring news, analysis and stories from the field, the *Girls Not Brides* website, [www.GirlsNotBrides.org](http://www.GirlsNotBrides.org), is a go-to resource on child marriage

**'*Girls Not Brides* infographics are fantastic – they are accessible to many audiences – particularly youth. We use them regularly and the shared messaging frameworks are adaptable, making our work easier'**

*Girls Not Brides* member, Nepal



**Thanks to partnerships with crowd-funding platforms GlobalGiving UK and Catapult, a number of *Girls Not Brides* members in Asia and Africa have learned the basics of crowd-funding and successfully raised funds online as a result.**

## HOW DOES THE PARTNERSHIP WORK?

To ensure that the Partnership operates as a strong global network, the collective work of *Girls Not Brides* members is supported by a secretariat. United by their commitment to end child marriage, the *Girls Not Brides* secretariat and members play clearly defined roles.

### THE ROLE OF GIRLS NOT BRIDES MEMBERS

There are multiple benefits of working in partnership within *Girls Not Brides* – from seizing opportunities and learning more about fundraising, to participating in collective activities around key advocacy moments.

At the same time, members' active and diverse contributions are crucial if the Partnership is to thrive. With their experience, unique understanding and their longstanding work with girls and communities affected by child marriage, *Girls Not Brides* members inform the strategy, activities and messaging of our global Partnership.

Each member brings their own unique contributions to the Partnership – some focus upon engaging with other members on global advocacy; others share learning in their specialist areas of expertise.



### MEMBERS ALL HAVE A ROLE TO PLAY IN THE PARTNERSHIP, INCLUDING BY:

- ▶ **Reporting** important national or regional-level policy developments and strategic opportunities to the secretariat
- ▶ **Sharing information** about their child marriage-related work. This enables the secretariat to link up members with mutual interests, highlight their activities, and connect members with promising media, funding and other opportunities
- ▶ **Embracing opportunities** to interact with other members to learn from each other's work, such as in our regular webinars
- ▶ **Collaborating** with other *Girls Not Brides* members at the national level to develop country-specific strategies to ensure that global action is underpinned by strong national and local-level progress. At the national level, members have also come together in many countries to form *Girls Not Brides* national partnerships
- ▶ **Participating** in collective advocacy initiatives at the global, regional and national levels
- ▶ **Helping** to grow the movement by recommending other organisations also working on child marriage

## THE ROLE OF THE GIRLS NOT BRIDES SECRETARIAT

**Girls Not Brides** has a secretariat based in London, UK, and Dakar, Senegal. The secretariat rallies support to end child marriage by:

1. Increasing the visibility and understanding of the impact of child marriage, and amplifying local and global efforts driven by members to end the practice
2. Tracking and sharing global and regional policy developments with members, and spearheading collective advocacy to include child marriage in development and human rights frameworks
3. Facilitating collective action by members at the global, regional and national levels
4. Ensuring members are equipped with the necessary tools and information to strengthen their work
5. Developing a shared understanding of promising approaches to ending child marriage
6. Nurturing relationships with governments and multilateral institutions, media outlets, potential donors, UN bodies and academic institutions, to increase their interest and commitment to ending child marriage

The secretariat is committed to ensuring that all *Girls Not Brides* members feel valued and supported, and that opportunities to engage are accessible, relevant and of direct benefit to the greatest number of members.



## WHO CAN BECOME A MEMBER AND HOW?

Membership of *Girls Not Brides* is open to civil society organisations committed to working in partnership to end child marriage.

Member organisations must be interested in participating proactively in the global partnership and in sharing their expertise with other members.

Members must endorse the Mission Statement and agree to the partnership's membership principles, which can be found at

**[www.GirlsNotBrides.org/join](http://www.GirlsNotBrides.org/join)**

To receive a copy of the membership application form and to find out more, please email **[info@GirlsNotBrides.org](mailto:info@GirlsNotBrides.org)**