

# Child, early and forced marriage document

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## Sponsoring countries

Albania, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Cabo Verde, Canada, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Czechia, Denmark, Ecuador, Equatorial Guinea, Estonia, Fiji, Finland, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Honduras, Iceland, Israel, Italy, Jordan, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liechtenstein, Malawi, Malta, Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, **Netherlands**, New Zealand, North Macedonia, Norway, Peru, Portugal, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Tunisia, Türkiye, Uganda, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America, Venezuela and Zambia

## Author's note :

**Family** : There are 9 references to family in this document which seems good at first glance. However 2 of these are “family planning”, 2 mention “other family members”, There are two good references to “family reunification 3 quite good family references in two paragraphs, see below:

**Operative para. 11.** Recognizes that the child, for the full and harmonious development of his or her personality, should grow up in **a family environment** and in an atmosphere of happiness, love and understanding and **that parents** or, as the case may be, legal guardians have the **primary responsibility for the upbringing and development of the child**, acknowledging the need to support their capacity to prevent and eliminate child, early and forced marriage, and reaffirming that the best interests of the child will be their basic concern;

**Operative para. 12.** Urges Governments, while addressing child, early and forced marriage, to **confront family poverty** and social exclusion through investing in **family-oriented policies** addressing the multidimensional aspects of poverty, focusing on education, health, employment, social security, livelihoods and social cohesion, paying special attention to gender-sensitive social protection measures, child allowances for parents and pension benefits for older persons and protecting, supporting and empowering children, including girls, in child-headed households;

## **Author's note**

**Men** – Ten references, none positive, but included in lists usually with boys. So the UN admits men exist, but not in any positive way. No reference to fathers,

**Marriage** – There are 98 references to marriage in this document, nearly all are negative, and few are neutral. I almost cried reading through this document at all the negativity to marriage. Marriage was instituted by God in the Garden of Eden Gen 2:24. Until very recently all countries of the world practiced marriage, frowned upon divorce and discourage co-habitation. All the social science data I have seen shows marriage to be a net positive for the husband, wife and children. The UN NEVER looks at any of this data as far as I can see.

## **Sex education etc**

**Operative Para 23.** Urges Governments to promote, respect and protect the right to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health through the development and enforcement of policies and legal frameworks and the strengthening of health systems, including health information systems, that make universally accessible and available quality, gender-responsive, **adolescent-friendly health services, sexual and reproductive health-care services**, information and commodities, HIV and AIDS prevention, testing, treatment and care, mental health services and nutrition interventions and prevention, treatment of and care for obstetric fistula and other obstetric complications by providing the continuum of services, including family planning, prenatal and postnatal care, skilled birth attendance, emergency obstetric care and post-partum care;

**Author's note** – The following countries objected to this paragraph : Lybia, Iraq, Egypt, Algeria, Nicaragua, Indonesia, Saudi Arabia, UAE, Bahrain, Oman Qatar, Kuwait, Iran, Yemen, Senegal, Russia, Mali, Nigeria, and the Holy See.

## **Multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination ( MIFD)**

**PP20.** Recognizing further that child, early and forced marriage undermines women's and girls' autonomy and decision-making in all aspects of their lives and that the empowerment of and investment in all women and girls, as well as the strengthening of their voice, agency, leadership and full and meaningful participation in all decisions that affect them, are key factors

in breaking the cycle of gender inequality and **multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination**, violence and poverty and are critical, inter alia, for sustainable development, peace, security, democracy and inclusive economic growth,

**Author's note** : My good friends at C-Fam have been following the UN's use of this terminology. See following quotes. Reservations on this terminology were made by Libya, Iraq, Algeria, Egypt, Indonesia, Iran, Yemen, Malaysia, Senegal, Russia, Mali and Jordan.

Evidence of Systemic and Unlawful Promotion of Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity by UN Secretariat, Agencies, and other Entities (Updated 2022)

**Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (monitoring CRPD):**

Review of France, 2021: "**Prohibit multiple and intersectional discrimination** on the grounds of disability and its intersection with other grounds, such as age, sex, race, ethnicity, gender identity, **sexual orientation**, or any other status, and adopt strategies to eliminate multiple and intersectional discrimination."

Review of India, 2019: "The State party should promote the human rights model of disability, and address prejudices and the use of derogatory language against persons with disabilities in society and **multiple and intersecting discrimination** against **intersex persons** and on the grounds, inter alia, of **sexual orientation and gender identity**."

**Final Author's note** : I have a very dear friend in my church here in Scotland, who was married at age 17. For the UN this would be a disaster as they would consider this an early marriage.. However she and her husband live very happily together until her husband died a few years ago. They ran a very successful business, had 3 children , 4 grandchildren and 2 great grandchildren so far. They have been very useful members in society and the local church.

Peter Smith

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