

## Spotlight on Human Rights-March 2016

# Girls Not Brides

<http://www.girlsnotbrides.org>

Girls Not Brides is a global partnership of more than 550 civil society organizations from over 70 countries committed to ending child marriage and enabling girls to fulfill their potential. Its offices are in London. It is a leading organization aiming to reduce the approximately 15 million girls under 18 years of age who marry each year—many under 15 and some as young as 8 or 9. Child brides are often disempowered, dependent on their husbands and deprived of their fundamental rights to health, education and safety. Child marriage reinforces gender inequality, degrades human rights and helps perpetuates poverty. While it is gradually being reduced, current marriage rates will result in an additional 1.2 billion girls married as child brides by the year 2050, according to Girls Not Brides. Ending child marriage is part of the UN Sustainable Development Goals <http://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/gender-equality/>. Girls Not Brides works throughout the world to end this practice <http://www.girlsnotbrides.org/the-partnership/what-we-do>.

Individuals can receive newsletters about issues and advocacy opportunities by signing up at the website home page.

Launch of new multi-country initiative to protect millions of girls from child marriage – UNICEF/UNFPA

