

# ENDING CHILD MARRIAGE: WITHIN OUR REACH



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# Girls Not Brides USA

- Co-chaired by IWHC, CARE, and ICRW
- More than 40 U.S. based organizations from a range of perspectives and expertise, including health, law, education, programs, advocacy, and research
- Part of global network committed to ending child marriage
- Working to ensure that the U.S. is a leader and a partner in efforts to prevent child marriage and support married adolescent girls



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# U.S. Congressional Response

- Senators Dick Durbin (D-IL) and Chuck Hagel (R-NE) introduced legislation in 109<sup>th</sup> Congress to address the issue of child marriage prevention
- Representative McCollum (D-MN) introduced legislation in the 110<sup>th</sup> Congress to address the issue of child marriage prevention
- In June 2009, major provisions of the House bill (H.R. 2103) were included in the State Department Reauthorization and passed out of the House
- July 2010, Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission hearing in the U.S. House of Representatives on child marriage



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## U.S. Congressional Response Cont.

- December 2010, Unanimous passage of the International Protecting Girls by Preventing Child Marriage Act by the U.S. Senate.
- May 2012, Unanimous passage of the International Protecting Girls by Preventing Child Marriage Act by the U.S. Senate.
- March 2013, Violence Against Women Act is signed into law, including child-marriage specific provisions that state (*PL 113-4 Sec 1207*):

“The Secretary of State shall establish and implement a multi-year, multi- sectoral strategy...”



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# Required Elements of the Strategy

- Prevent child marriage;
- Promote empowerment of girls at risk of child marriage in developing countries;
- Address the unique needs, vulnerabilities and potential of girls younger than 18 years old;
- Target areas with high prevalence of child marriage; and
- Include both diplomatic and programmatic initiatives.



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# Key Principles for U.S. Partnership and Leadership

- Work in partnership with other donors and national governments in specific sub-national districts.
- Increase efforts to work directly with girls as a core constituency and provide girl-only spaces.
- Define and evaluate change at the level of the girl, as well as her family and community, over time.



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# Opportunities to Strengthen U.S. Response

- Increase coordination of child marriage prevention and response efforts among agencies and stakeholders;
- Enhance integration of child marriage prevention and response efforts into existing USG policy, programmatic, and research efforts;
- Improve the collection, analysis, and use of data and research to enhance child marriage prevention and response efforts;
- Enhance or expand programming that addresses child marriage;



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# Opportunities to Strengthen U.S. Response Continued

- Implement the WHO guidelines on preventing adolescent pregnancy and poor reproductive health outcomes; and
- Put adolescent girls and women at the center of the Post-2015 development agenda



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# Join Us! Ending Child Marriage Together.



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