ENDING CHILD MARRIAGE: WITHIN OUR REACH

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June 17, 2013
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
U.S. Congressional Response

• Senators Dick Durbin (D-IL) and Chuck Hagel (R-NE) introduced legislation in 109th Congress to address the issue of child marriage prevention
• Representative McCollum (D-MN) introduced legislation in the 110th 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
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...”
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.
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.
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;
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
Join Us! Ending Child Marriage Together.

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