

Strategic Dialogue among parliamentarians and civil society on Ending Child, Early and Forced Marriage and other harmful practices in Kenya

December 16, 2020 4:00-6:00 pm (Nairobi) | National Assembly of Kenya

Virtual

Parliamentarians for Global Action (PGA, the largest transnational network of individual parliamentarians with a membership of over 1,200 legislators in 136 countries working together to advance human rights globally), in collaboration with Girls Not Brides (GNB, a global partnership of over 1000 civil society organizations committed to ending child marriage) and members of GNB's National Partnership in Kenya, are organizing a webinar for Kenyan parliamentarians to discuss the need to address harmful practices, such as child, early and forced marriage (CEFM) and female genital mutilation/cutting (FGM) in the context of COVID-19.

Purpose

The purpose of the webinar is to learn about the current state of harmful practices in Kenya in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic and to build political will among Kenyan parliamentarians to revitalize and update the National Strategy to End Child, Early and Forced Marriage.

Specific Objectives

- Increase knowledge and understanding among Kenyan parliamentarians about the current context of CEFM and FGM in the country.
- Provide a platform for dialogue between Kenyan parliamentarians and civil society representatives to exchange information, particularly data to support the design of public policies to end CEFM and FGM, as well as to obtain parliamentarians' support in allocating sufficient resources to programs preventing and eliminating harmful practices.
- Share best practices and lessons learned among parliamentarians from Kenya, Uganda and Zimbabwe. Uganda has implemented a five-year National Strategy to End Child, Early and Forced Marriage and could serve as a model for Kenya.

Participants

Parliamentarians from Kenya, particularly members of the Kenya Women Parliamentary Association (KEWOPA), the Kenya Parliamentary Human Rights Association, the Parliamentary Caucus on Children and the SDGs Caucus, as well as members of PGA's National Group, representatives of civil society working on ending harmful practices, such as CEFM and FGM in Kenya; parliamentarians from Uganda and Zimbabwe.

Structure and Proposed Agenda

The two-hour consultation is structured as a briefing for parliamentarians with presentations by civil society representatives and experts on the current context of CEFM and FGM in their communities, as well as a

dialogue among parliamentarians and civil society to revive the commitment and encourage support for a National Strategy to End CEFM.

An agenda will be developed in partnership between Girls Not Brides, members of the Girls Not Brides National Partnership for Kenya and Parliamentarians for Global Action. Some proposed agenda items may include:

Local Time in Nairobi:

4:00 p.m. **Opening Remarks** by Hon. Millie Odhiambo, MP Kenya; PGA Board Member

Moderator: Nerida Nthamburi, Senior Partnership Officer for Africa, GNBs

I. Current Situation of CEFM in Kenya and Recommendations to Policymakers

Presentations by members of GNB's National Partnership in Kenya:

Yvette Kathurima-Muhia- *Girls Not Brides*, Head of Africa Engagement (brief introduction to the Global Partnership to End Child Marriage)

Faith Lanoi Mpoke and **Millicent Ondigo**, Co-coordinators of *Girls Not Brides Kenya* (situation of child marriage in Kenya and recommendation of legislative interventions that MPs can enact/implement to ending the practice)

II. The Parliamentary Perspective: Lessons Learned from Uganda and Zimbabwe

Remarks by **Hon. Dr. Jovah Kamateeka**, Member of the Uganda Women Parliamentary Association and Uganda Parliamentary Forum for Children Affairs, and former Chair of the Human Rights Committee of Parliament

Remarks by **Hon. Dorcas Sibanda**, MP Zimbabwe; Chair of PGA's National Group

Interactive dialogue among parliamentarians and civil society representatives

Mokeira Nyagaka, Capacity Building and Learning Officer at the International Budget Partnership Kenya

Closing Remarks and Commitment to Revitalize the National Strategy to End CEFM in Kenya by Hon. Dennitah Ghati, MP Kenya

6:00 p.m. **End of Webinar**