

PGA Parliamentary Seminar to Combat Early and Forced Marriage in Ghana, 3 – 4 March

Session 6: Exchanging Best Practices and Effective Tools to Combat Early and Forced Marriage

Effective strategies to eliminate child marriage

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About *Girls Not Brides*

- Founded by the Elders in 2011
- 300+ member organisations; 50 countries
- Why work in partnership
 - Collective advocacy for increased political, financial and programmatic support
 - Sharing experience, building connections
 - Highlighting solutions



Approaches to ending child marriage: What our members are doing

- Advocacy at national, regional and international levels
- Research (qualitative studies on trends, drivers and impact of child marriage, and efforts to address it)
- Programming on child marriage and related issues
- Providing services (health, legal, social services)



Effectiveness of strategies to end child marriage – what we know

- Systematic review commissioned by WHO and conducted by the International Centre for Research on Women (ICRW) in 2011
- 5 main strategies among evaluated programmes:
 1. Empowering girls with information, skills and support networks
 2. Educate and rally parents and community members
 3. Provide economic support and incentives to girls and their families
 4. Enhance girls' access to a high-quality education
 5. Encourage supportive laws and policies
- Most frequent combinations: empowering girls with information, skills and support networks + educating and rallying parents and community members



The road ahead for ending child marriage around the world

- No single strategy will end child marriage: need for combination of strategies
- More programmes in high prevalence areas which respond to local context
- Document and evaluate what works
- Integration into other development programmes; education, maternal and child health, etc.
- Address child marriage in regional / global fora

