**Efforts to combat child marriage and forced marriage**

*Input for the OHCHR*

1. Prevention

* Grants are given to projects aimed at changing attitudes and behaviour in communities where there is a risk of child marriage. Emphasis is placed on the need to recognise and respect the right to self-determination. The projects are carried out mainly by non-governmental organisations.
* Every year a publicity campaign about forced marriage is carried out aimed at young people. Facebook, YouTube videos, radio advertising and a website are some of the means used for this purpose. The campaign informs young people about forced marriage and where they can get help.

1. Assistance

* Various education and healthcare professionals are bound by a domestic violence and child abuse protocol, which also covers forced marriage. It provides guidelines on how to identify and respond to domestic violence and forced marriage.
* Care professionals’ expertise on forced marriage is being increased through extra support, a help desk and e-learning. A training package on forced marriage and choosing a partner is available for schools.
* The assistance provided to underage victims abroad is being improved. Legislation on issuing travel documents to minors is being amended. A national organisation will be set up to assist the Ministry of Foreign Affairs; it will facilitate repatriation and ensure that people repatriated to the Netherlands receive the help they need.

1. Civil-law measures against forced marriage

* A Bill has been introduced that will prohibit minors in the Netherlands from marrying.
* Under the Bill, a foreign marriage involving a minor will only be recognised in the Netherlands if both spouses are 18 or over when they apply for recognition. Another proposed measure is to prohibit marriage between cousins.

1. Criminal-law measures against forced marriage

* The Act to extend the scope for criminal prosecution in cases of forced marriage, polygamy and female genital mutilation entered into force on 1 July 2013. The maximum sentence for forced marriage has been raised from nine months to two years.