



HAUT-COMMISSARIAT AUX DROITS DE L'HOMME • OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS  
PALAIS DES NATIONS • 1211 GENEVA 10, SWITZERLAND  
www.ohchr.org • TEL: +41 22 917 9000 • FAX: +41 22 917 9008 • E-MAIL: registry@ohchr.org

Reference: **WHRGS/HRC/RES/48/6**

Subject: Call for submission for the elaboration of a report on the adverse impact of forced marriage on the full and effective enjoyment of all human rights by all women and girls

The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) presents its compliments to all Permanent Missions to the United Nations Office and other International Organizations at Geneva and has the honour to refer to Human Rights Council resolution 48/6 entitled “Child, early and forced marriage in times of crises, including the COVID-19 pandemic”.

The resolution requested OHCHR to consult and collaborate with States and other relevant stakeholders, including women and girls at risk, United Nations agencies, funds and programmes, special procedure mandate holders, international and regional organizations, scholars, national human rights institutions, representatives of subregional and regional organizations, international human rights mechanisms and civil society organizations, to prepare a report on the adverse impact of forced marriage on the full and effective enjoyment of all human rights by all women and girls.

In this context, OHCHR is seeking inputs from States and other stakeholders to inform the preparation of the report. OHCHR would appreciate receiving inputs in relation to the areas covered in the questionnaire in the annex.

Submissions should be received by 15 October 2022 and:

- Limited to 5 pages (or 3000 words).
- Sent by email in Microsoft Word format to [ohchr-registry@un.org](mailto:ohchr-registry@un.org), cc : [ohchr-wohchr@un.org](mailto:ohchr-wohchr@un.org) and [caroline.ouaffowafang@un.org](mailto:caroline.ouaffowafang@un.org).
- Written in English, French or Spanish.

Submissions from States will be made publicly available on the OHCHR website. For inquiries, please contact Caroline Wafang Ouaffo at [caroline.ouaffowafang@un.org](mailto:caroline.ouaffowafang@un.org).

The Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Permanent Missions to the United Nations Office at Geneva the assurances of its highest consideration.

15 September 2022



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## **Questionnaire on the adverse impact of forced marriage on the full and effective enjoyment of all human rights by all women and girls**

### **1. Causes and consequences of forced marriage**

- 1) What measures have been taken to address the root causes of forced marriage, and the social, economic, environmental, political, pandemics, cultural and religious factors that facilitate, support, or exacerbate it? Could you share some promising practices?
- 2) What legislative and policy measures have been taken to prevent and prohibit forced marriage in all its forms (abduction, kidnapping, marriage initiated by families or for tribals dispute settlements, captivity, trafficking in persons, temporary marriages, coerced or placement marriage, levirate, sororate, child marriage and early unions)?
- 3) What legislative and policy measures have been taken pertaining to the age of consent in accordance with the evolving capacity age and maturity of adolescent girls and boys?
- 4) What measures have been taken to ensure the agency and guarantee the respect of the economic rights of women and girls in forced marriage, and at its dissolution, especially in relation to family property, access to land and inheritance, and right to matrimonial property?

### **2. Prevention, empowerment, and community mobilization**

- 5) What measures have been taken to ensure empowerment and agency of women and girls to make decision on their lives and protect them from stigma, to secure their right to sexual and reproductive health, including access to information and services?
- 6) What has been done to engage key actors in preventing forced marriage, including the media, community and religious leaders, families, and armed groups? What are the existing tools leveraged to addressing the issue of forced marriage?
- 7) What actions have been taken to empower women and girls, victims of forced marriage, promote social mobilization and provide socio-economic assets to women and girls, to raise awareness about the adverse impact of forced marriage, and build the capacity of professionals across sectors?

### **3. Accountability, access to justice, support, and reparations**

- 8) What measures have been taken to address the physical, sexual, and socio-psychological consequences of forced marriage, and also stigma and rejection, including of the children born from such forced marriages?
- 9) What are the challenges related to barriers to accessing justice, reparations for women and girls, and for prosecutions and sanctions of perpetrators of forced marriage and how are they addressed in your national context?



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- 10) What has been the impact of protection orders, rehabilitation centres and shelters for survivors of domestic violence, marital rape, and other forms of violence in the context of forced marriage?
- 11) What services are available for rehabilitation of both women and their children survivors of forced marriage? What are the viable alternatives, social, economic, and other financial assets available to support them?

#### **4. Data collection**

- 12) What are the challenges in relation to identification of cases of forced marriage, particularly in contexts of trafficking of persons, conflict, pandemics, emergencies, and patriarchal norms and systems and how are they addressed?
- 13) Could you share data about the prevalence of informal unions, cohabitations, forced marriages including in situation of crisis, such as in internal displaced and refugee camps, and on women and girls separated from their families due to conflict and emergencies and held in detention or captivity for the purpose of exploitation including forced marriage?

#### **5. Funding**

- 14) What measures are put in place to prevent discontinuation of public funding to address forced marriage, particularly in situation of crises and pandemics?
- 15) What funding is available to support frontliners, women agent of change and other women's organisations in addressing the issue of forced marriage?