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UNICEF

Definições sobre Casamento Infantil

“**Casamento Infantil** é um casamento em que a idade de uma ou ambas as pessoas que se casam é inferior a 18 anos. Esse entendimento está alinhado com a Convenção dos Direitos da Criança, que classifica como criança uma pessoa com menos de 18 anos de idade. O casamento infantil afeta também os meninos, mas as meninas são muito mais prejudicadas. Meninas que se casam cedo correm o risco de sofrer violência, abuso e exploração, e podem ser privadas de continuar os seus estudos. O casamento infantil prejudica a saúde das mães jovens, assim como a de seus bebês. Meninas entre 15 e 19 anos de idade têm uma probabilidade duas vezes maior de morrer durante a gravidez ou no momento do parto do que mulheres de 20 a 29 anos”.

[UNICEF, 2011:15](#)

“The term ‘child marriage’ is used to refer to both formal marriages and informal unions in which a girl or boy lives with a partner as if married before the age of 18. An informal union is one in which a couple live together for some time, intending to have a lasting relationship, but do not have a formal civil or religious ceremony”.

[Site da UNICEF \(acesso em 10-12-2016\)](#)

“O número de meninas noivas em África pode mais que duplicar para 310 milhões até 2050.

Se os níveis atuais persistirem, o número total de meninas noivas em África vai aumentar de 125 milhões para 310 milhões até 2050, segundo o relatório da UNICEF ‘A Profile of Child Marriage in Africa’ (Perfil do casamento na infância em África).

Este novo documento aponta para taxas de redução lentas, combinadas com um rápido crescimento demográfico, como principais causas do aumento projetado. Em todas as outras regiões do mundo, as atuais taxas de redução e tendências demográficas significam que haverá menos meninas noivas a cada ano. Até 2050, África irá ultrapassar o Sul da Ásia como a região com o número mais elevado de mulheres entre os 20 e os 24 anos de idade que terão casado na infância.

No continente africano, a percentagem de jovens mulheres que casaram na infância baixou de 44 por cento em 1990 para 34 por cento atualmente. Dado que se prevê que a população total de raparigas em África aumente dos 275 milhões atuais para 465 milhões até 2050, são necessárias medidas muito mais ambiciosas – já que mesmo a duplicação da atual taxa de redução de casamentos na infância significaria, ainda assim, um aumento do número de meninas noivas.

Os progressos até agora revelam uma profunda falta de equidade: a probabilidade de uma rapariga proveniente do quinto mais pobre da sociedade vir a casar na infância é tão forte hoje como o era há 25 anos.

Quando as crianças casam, as suas perspetivas de vir a ter uma vida saudável e bem-sucedida diminuem drasticamente, desencadeando muitas vezes um ciclo intergeracional de pobreza. As meninas noivas têm menos probabilidades de terminar a sua escolaridade, mais probabilidades de vir a ser vítimas de violência e de serem infetadas com o VIH. As crianças de mães adolescentes correm um maior risco de vir a ser nados-mortos, de morrer após o parto ou de ter baixo peso à nascença. As meninas noivas muitas vezes não dispõem das competências necessárias para o mundo do emprego.

“Por si só, o número de raparigas afetadas – e o que tal significa em termos de infâncias perdidas e futuros estilhaçados – sublinham a urgência de banir a prática do casamento na infância de uma vez por todas. Os dados também revelam claramente que, para acabar com o casamento na infância, é preciso um enfoque muito mais nítido em alcançar as raparigas mais pobres e marginalizadas – aquelas que estão mais carenciadas e correm maiores riscos – através de uma educação de qualidade e de um leque de outros serviços de proteção. A sua vida, e o seu futuro, bem como o futuro das suas comunidades, estão em perigo. Cada menina noiva representa uma tragédia individual. O aumento do seu número é intolerável.”

Anthony Lake, Director Executivo da UNICEF

Sobre o Casamento Infantil recomendamos

Our time to sing and play: child marriage in Nepal (2016)

Publicação da Human Rights Watch: "Thirty-seven percent of girls in Nepal marry before age 18 and 10 percent are married by age 15, in spite of the fact that the minimum age of mar-

riage under Nepali law is 20 years of age. Boys also often marry young in Nepal, though in lower numbers than girls. UNICEF data indicates that Nepal has the third highest rate of

child marriage in Asia, after Bangladesh and India".

[Disponível on-line »](#)

Risk factors associated with the practice of child marriage among Roma girls in Serbia (2016)

Artigo de David Hotchkiss *et al.*: "Relatively little research on the issue of child marriage has been conducted in European countries where the overall prevalence of child marriage is relatively low, but relatively high

among marginalized ethnic subgroups. The purpose of this study is to assess the risk factors associated with the practice of child marriage among females living in Roma settlements in Serbia and among the

general population and to explore the inter-relationship between child marriage and school enrollment decisions".

[Disponível on-line »](#)

The state of world population 2016 (2016)

Publicação do United Nations Population Fund. O casamento infantil é tratado nas páginas 72-74: "Every day, nearly 47,700 girls around the world are married before age 18. In some parts of the world, a girl who

begins menstruating may soon be married against her will. Marrying early limits educational attainment opportunities and future prosperity, increases the likelihood of intimate-partner violence and the risk of early

and unwanted sexual contact, and may increase the risk of sexually transmitted infections (Population Council, 2015)".p. 72

[Disponível on-line »](#)

It takes a movement: reflecting on five years of progress towards ending child marriage (2016)

Publicação da organização *Girls Not Brides*: "Child marriage has been practiced for centuries around the world, cutting across countries, religions and ethnicities – undermining the potential of girls everywhere. Yet five years ago, little attention was paid to the issue. Much has changed since.

Developed by *Girls Not Brides*, this report reflects on what progress has been made towards

addressing child marriage in the last five years, how working in partnership has helped catalyze this change, and what remains to be done.

The report covers several areas of progress, including: trends of child marriage rates; global and regional commitments; strengthening legal and policy frameworks; building a movement; creating an understanding of what needs to be done;

and funding for the field. It ends on a seven-point list of recommendations to build on progress thus far and make a difference in the lives of millions of girls".

[Disponível on-line »](#)

“Child marriage, defined as a formal marriage or informal union before age 18, is a reality for both boys and girls, although girls are disproportionately the most affected. Child marriage is widespread and can lead to a lifetime of disadvantage and deprivation”.

[Site da UNICEF \(acesso em 10-12-2016\)](#)



Human Rights Watch

“Child marriage is any formal marriage or informal union where one or both of the parties are under 18 years of age.

Each year, 15 million girls are married before the age of 18. That is 28 girls every minute. 1 every 2 seconds”.

[Site de Girls Not Brides \(acesso em 10-12-2016\)](#)

Every last girl: free to live, free to learn, free from harm (2016)

Uma publicação editada pela Save the Children: "Child marriage: More than 700 million women in the world today were married before their 18th birthday and one in three of those women was married before age 15. Child marriage can trigger a cycle of disadvantage across every part of a girl's life". p. VI

[Disponível on-line »](#)

"Child marriage in numbers

- ***Each year, 15 million girls are married before the age of 18. In developing countries one in three girls is married before the age of 18 and one in nine before the age of 15.***
- ***In Dominican Republic 37% of women aged 20–24 are married before 18 years.***
- ***In most countries, girls from poor families are more likely to be married early than their richer peers. In Nigeria, 40% of the poorest girls are married by age 15 compared to 3% of the richest girls.***
- ***Girls in particular regions of some countries are disproportionately affected. In Ethiopia more than half of girls in the Amhara, Benishangul-Gumuz and Afar regions marry by age 18 compared to 12% in Addis Ababa.***
- ***The majority of the 25 countries with the highest rates of child marriage are considered fragile states or at high risk of natural disaster".***

[Save the Children, 2016: 5](#)

Marry before your house is swept away: child marriage in Bangladesh (2015)

Uma publicação da Human Rights Watch: "Bangladesh has the fourth-highest rate of child marriage in the world, after Niger, the Central African Republic, and Chad, according to the United Nations children's agency, UNICEF. In the period 2005 to 2013, according to UNICEF, 29 percent of girls in Bangladesh married before the age of 15 and 65 percent married before the age of 18. Child marriage around the world is associated with many harmful consequences, including health dangers associated with early pregnancy, lower educational achievement for girls who marry earlier, a higher incidence of spousal violence, and an increased likelihood of poverty".

[Disponível on-line »](#)

A profile of child marriage in Africa (2015)

Um document da UNICEF: "Worldwide, more than 75 million young women aged 20 to 24 years, a quarter of them in Africa, entered their first marriage or union before they celebrated their 18th birthday. But the global profile of child marriage is changing. A growing child population combined with a slow decline in the practice of child marriage in Africa will put millions more girls at risk. If current trends continue, almost half of the world's child brides in 2050 will be African".

[Disponível on-line »](#)

Child marriage affects a huge proportion of the world's girls, and is only declining slowly. Child marriage isn't a one-off rights violation – it triggers and exacerbates a cycle of disadvantage: It leads to large-scale violations of girls' right to education and health; exacerbates girls' risk of contracting sexually transmitted infections, including HIV; and increases girls' vulnerability to multiple forms of violence. The majority of child brides have received limited education and vocational opportunities and, as a consequence of child marriage, often drop out of school or are not allowed to return. This in turn undermines their ability to generate their own livelihood and shuts off the potentially empowering knowledge and networks that education can provide. Ending child marriage would have a multiplier effect – improving levels of learning, survival and protection, and leading to benefits from the individual and community level right up to the national economy and society.

Child marriage is rooted in gender discrimination and structural inequalities. In many contexts, it is sustained as a result of harmful social norms and practices associated with the roles and expectations assigned to girls, and the negative consequences of poverty and deprivation. Girls affected by multiple forms of overlapping disadvantage are most at risk, including those from poor families, in remote locations and from minority ethnic and religious groups.

[Save the Children, 2016: 5](#)



“Child marriage happens because adults believe they have the right to impose marriage upon a child. This denies children, particularly girls, their dignity and the opportunity to make choices that are central to their lives, such as when and whom to marry or when to have children. Choices define us and allow us to realize our potential. Child marriage robs girls of this chance.”

Desmond Tutu and Graça Machel”

[UNICEF, 2015: 8](#)

Casamento prematuro e gravidez na adolescência em Moçambique: resumo de análises (2015)

Uma publicação editada pela UNICEF: "Moçambique é um dos países ao nível mundial com as taxas mais elevadas de prevalência de casamentos prematuros, afetando cerca de uma em duas raparigas, representando uma grande violação dos direitos humanos das raparigas. Esta situação influencia negativamente os esforços para a redução da pobreza e o alcance dos Objetivos de Desenvolvimento do Milénio (ODMs) - em particular influenciando para que as raparigas fiquem grávidas precocemente e deixem ter acesso a educação, aumentando os riscos de mortalidade materna e infantil. A pressão económica exercida sobre os agregados mais pobres e as práticas socioculturais prevalecentes, continuam a conduzir as famílias a casarem as suas filhas

cada vez mais cedo, quando as raparigas ainda não atingiram maturidade suficiente para o casamento e para a gravidez ou para assumirem a responsabilidade para serem esposas e mães. A maior parte das desistências escolares estão ligadas a gravidez precoce nas raparigas, numa fase do seu desenvolvimento físico e emocional em que elas ainda não se encontram preparadas para gerar uma criança, com consequências bastante sérias para a sua saúde e para a sobrevivência dos seus filhos. Moçambique encontra-se em 10º lugar no mundo entre os países mais afetados pelos casamentos prematuros, atendendo os dados relacionados com a proporção de raparigas com idades entre os 20-24 anos que se casaram enquanto crianças, isto é, antes

dos 18 anos de idade. A maior parte destes casamentos são de facto uniões, mais do que casamentos legalmente registados, mas são usualmente formalizados através de procedimentos costumeiros como o pagamento do *lobolo* para a família da rapariga. De acordo com os dados do Inquérito Demográfico e de Saúde (IDS) 2011, 48% de raparigas com a idade entre os 20-24 anos casou-se antes dos 18 anos e 14% antes de atingir os 15 anos. Moçambique encontra-se ainda atrasado nos esforços de prevenção e combate contra este fenómeno, apresentando um nível de prevalência de casamentos prematuros acima dos restantes países da África Austral e Oriental, ficando apenas atrás do Malawi". p. 3

[Disponível on-line »](#)

Child marriage and its impact on maternal and child health in Pakistan (2015)

Tese de Doutoramento de Muazzam Nasrullah: "Child marriage, defined as marriage prior to 18 years of age is expected to become the reality of 100 million adolescent girls in the developing world during the next 10 years. Sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia regions have one of the highest rates of child marriages in the world. The practice is prevalent in Pakistan, which disproportionately affects young girls in rural, low income and low education households. Our study objectives were: To determine the association between child marriage and maternal healthcare

services utilization in Pakistan beyond those attributed to social vulnerabilities (women's economic status, education, ethnicity, and place of residence). To determine the association between child marriage and high fertility and poor fertility health indicators beyond those attributed to social vulnerabilities. To determine the association between child marriage and morbidity and mortality of children under 5 years of age in Pakistan beyond those attributed to social vulnerabilities. To determine the association between child marriage and controlling behaviors and

spousal violence by husbands against adolescent and young women in Pakistan beyond those attributed to social vulnerabilities. To describe women's knowledge and attitude towards child marriage practice who themselves were married as children to gain insight, especially cultural factors for designing future interventions".

[Disponível on-line »](#)

Thematic report: unrecognized sexual abuse and exploitation of children in child early and forced marriages (2015)

Relatório da ECPAT International e da Plan International: "Parents who marry their children before they reach legal age are typically motivated by pre-determined social and sexual norms, low value attached to daughters, poverty or humanitarian crises.

Confronted with social pressure and family hardship, they may seek in marriage a form of protection to shield their children from destitution, household food insecurity and, ultimately, sexual harassment.

In the reality of the 700 million

women alive today who were married before their 18th birthday, however, child, early and forced marriage (CEFM) may have been a route to systematic, albeit unrecognized, sexual abuse and exploitation. No longer children, not yet adults, child brides tend to be denied fulfillment of their fundamental rights and access to social services otherwise granted to unmarried children and married women.

The marginal social roles assigned to married girls discontinue the privileges of child-

hood, while precluding access to powers granted to adult members of their communities.

This report by ECPAT International and Plan International aims to contribute to deepening the appreciation of the interconnections linking CEFM to sexual abuse and exploitation of children and make suggestions for advocacy and programming activities that are committed to ending this practice".

[Disponível on-line »](#)

Getting the evidence: Asia child marriage initiative (2015)

Relatório da Plan International e da Coram International: "In 2014 and 2015, as part of the Asia Child Marriage Initiative (ACMI), Plan International and Coram International undertook a research study in Pakistan, Bangladesh and Indonesia.

The purpose of the ACMI research was to gather in-depth and detailed evidence on the root causes of child marriage practices. It focused on exploring social attitudes, values and norms concerning child marriage, and identifying the structural and environmental factors which influence them. In addition, the research informed the

development of an index for measuring environmental factors associated with the acceptability of child marriage which will be used by Plan International to track progress and improve the effectiveness of our child marriage programming globally.

The research found rates of child marriage of girls to be high across all 3 countries, particularly in Bangladesh; rates of marriage of boys were found to be highest in Pakistan.

The research found that the number of years a girl spends in education is associated with her age of first marriage; girls who

stay in school longer tend to marry later. Furthermore, male sexual violence and control of female sexuality underlie the practice of child marriage, whilst improved access to sexual and reproductive health rights reduces child marriage acceptability.

The summary report presents the research findings and makes a series of recommendations that are necessary to reduce levels of child marriage throughout Asia".

[Disponível on-line »](#)



Human Rights Watch

Child marriage, adolescent pregnancy and family formation in West and Central Africa (2015)

Documento editado pelo International Center for Research on Women: "Of the 15 countries where the rate of child marriage is over 30 percent, nine are in West and Central Africa, with Niger having the highest rates in the world. The West and Central Africa region also has the highest adolescent birth rates in the world, at close to 200 births per 1,000 girls. Accompanying these patterns are high levels of poverty among adolescents, high levels of school dropout, particularly among girls, and low use of reproductive health services.

Although child marriage and

adolescent pregnancy remain pervasive across the developing world, there is promising evidence of decreasing rates in both early marriage and pregnancy, including in West and Central Africa. Recent data indicate a slow decline in child marriage prevalence in most countries in the region and adolescent pregnancy rates are also experiencing a downward trend in parts of the region, including in Ghana, Senegal and Liberia.

Despite increasing attention and programmatic efforts to address child marriage and adolescent pregnancy in West and Central Africa in recent years, little has

been done to identify what factors lead to changes in attitudes and behaviors. ICRW conducted a study to:

- Identify core drivers of child marriage and adolescent pregnancy in West and Central Africa;
- Assess the levels, trends and relationships between child marriage and adolescent pregnancy in the region".

[Disponível on-line »](#)

Ending child marriage: progress and prospects (2014)

Publicação da UNICEF: "Worldwide, more than 700 million women alive today were married before their 18th birthday. More than one in three (about 250 million) entered into union before age 15.

Boys are also married as children, but girls are disproportionately affected. In Niger, for instance, 77 per cent of women aged 20 to 49 were married before age 18 in contrast to 5 per cent of men in the same age group. Even in countries where child marriage is less common, the same gender dif-

ferences are found. In the Republic of Moldova, for example, 15 per cent of women aged 20 to 49 were married before age 18 compared to 2 per cent of men. Furthermore, girls are often married to considerably older men. In Mauritania and Nigeria, more than half of adolescent girls aged 15 to 19 who are currently married have husbands who are 10 or more years older than they are. Child marriage is a manifestation of gender inequality, reflecting social norms that perpetuate discrimination against girls.

Child marriage among girls is most common in South Asia and sub-Saharan Africa, and the 10 countries with the highest rates are found in these two regions. Niger has the highest overall prevalence of child marriage in the world. However, Bangladesh has the highest rate of marriage involving girls under age 15. South Asia is home to almost half (42 per cent) of all child brides worldwide; India alone accounts for one third of the global total".

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"Ending child marriage will help break the intergenerational cycle of poverty by allowing girls and women to participate more fully in society. Empowered and educated girls are better able to nourish and care for their children, leading to healthier, smaller families. When girls are allowed to be girls, everybody wins".

[UNICEF, 2014:8](#)

I've never experienced happiness. Child marriage in Malawi (2014)

Documento da responsabilidade da Human Rights Watch: "Many Malawian communities see child marriage as being in the best interests of girls and their families. Some families see it as an important way to improve their economic status, sometimes through payment of dowry by the groom to the bride's family, or through continued support by their daughter's husband. For some girls, marriage may suggest a route, often unfulfilled, to escape poverty. Child marriage is also deeply entrenched in Ma-

lawi's traditions and patriarchal cultures, which encourage early sexual initiation and marriage and women's subordination in society, but stigmatize adolescent pregnancy. Marriage is regarded as a means of protecting girls who get pregnant from undermining family honor. Child marriage has a negative impact on girl's and women's realization of key human rights, including their rights to health, education, to be free from physical, mental, and sexual violence, and to marry only

when they are able and willing to give their free and full consent. The younger the age of marriage the more serious these impacts are". pp. 1-2

[Disponível on-line »](#)



UNICEF

No way out: child marriage and human rights abuses in Tanzania (2014)

Documento da responsabilidade da Human Rights Watch: "In Tanzania, 4 out of 10 girls are married before their 18th birthday. A study by the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) estimated that 37 percent of Tanzanian women aged 20–24 years were first married or in union before the age of 18, between 2000–2011. Human Rights Watch documented cases where girls as young as seven were married.

Child marriage is deeply embedded in Tanzanian society. In many cultures in Tanzania, girls are generally considered ready for marriage when they reach puberty and marriage is viewed

as a way to protect them from pre-marital sex and pregnancy that undermine family honor and may decrease the amount of dowry a family may receive. Cultural practices such as female genital mutilation (FGM) also contribute to child marriage in some communities. Among the Maasai and Gogo ethnic groups, where Human Rights Watch conducted some of its research for this report, FGM is closely related to child marriage and is done primarily as a rite of passage to prepare girls, aged 10–15, years for marriage. Many Tanzanians regard child marriage as way of securing financial security for themselves

and their daughters. The practice of dowry payment by the groom to the bride's family is a key incentive for many families to marry off their daughters. Some girls see marriage as a way out of poverty, violence, or neglect. Child labor in Tanzania may also be associated with a significant increase in marriage at an earlier age, as girls who face abuse and exploitation in their workplaces see marriage as a way to escape their suffering". pp. 8-9

[Disponível on-line »](#)

"Forced marriage" refers to any marriage which occurs without the full and free consent of one or both of the parties or where one or both of the parties are unable to end or leave the marriage, including as a result of duress or intense social or family pressure. It encompasses related harmful practices such as wife inheritance, bride kidnapping, girl-child compensation, and marriage as dispute settlement or debt payment, which are practiced in Tanzania".

[Human Rights Watch, 2014:1](#)



14 Million Screams

More power to her: how empowering girls can end child marriage (2014)

Documento editado pelo International Center for Research on Women: "The International Center for Research on Women's report, *"More Power to Her: How Empowering Girls Can Help End Child Marriage"*, shows how and why investing in girls is critical to the global movement to end child marriage. The practice, which cuts across global cultures and religions, turns more than 14 million girls worldwide into child brides every year, violating their basic human rights – and hindering larger international development efforts.

ICRW has been at the forefront of exposing the harms caused

by child marriage, and identifying solutions to prevent it, for more than 15 years. In 2011, ICRW identified five promising strategies to prevent child marriage. With this latest study, ICRW set out to discover how programs in Bangladesh, Egypt, Ethiopia and India are working to empower both girls at-risk of child marriage as well as already married girls, and how empowerment leads to changes in knowledge, attitudes and practices.

Based on four case studies – programs run by CARE (Ethiopia), BRAC (Bangladesh), Save the Children (Egypt) and Pathfinder International (India)

– ICRW's findings show that girl-focused programs expand girls' ability to make strategic life choices by providing them with access to critical resources. The information, skills and social support that they gain help to instill a transformation within girls: increasing their self-awareness, their self-efficacy and their aspirations. They also introduce girls to alternatives to marriage, such as school and livelihood opportunities, and enhance their ability to influence key 'gatekeepers' in their lives, such as parents, husbands or community leaders".

[Disponível on-line »](#)

This old man can feed us, you will marry him: child and forced marriage in South Sudan (2013)

Documento da responsabilidade da Human Rights Watch. [Disponível on-line »](#)



UNICEF

Marrying too young: end child marriage (2012)

Publicação do United Nations Population Fund: "Child marriage is a human rights abuse. It constitutes a grave threat to young girls' lives, health and future prospects. Marriage for girls can lead to complications related to pregnancy and childbirth, and in developing countries these are the main causes of death among 15–19 year-old girls. Girls who are married are also exposed to sexually transmitted infections, including HIV. For a girl, marriage can mean the end of her education, can set aside her chances of a vocation or career, and can steal from her foundational life choices. Choosing when and who to marry is one of life's most important decisions. No one else, however well-meaning, has the right to make that decision. The decision to marry should be a freely made, informed decision that is taken without fear, coercion, or undue pressure. It is an adult decision and a decision that should be

made, when ready, as an adult. On that virtually all countries agree. The Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) and the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), both human rights instruments, outlaw child marriage. The International Conference on Population and Development in 1994 (ICPD) called on countries to eliminate child marriage and to enforce laws that ensure free and full consent. Yet child marriage persists, especially in poor and rural parts of countries in the developing world. It may be part of local tradition; parents may believe it safeguards their daughters' future; poverty or conflict may propel it. But more often than not, child marriage is the outcome of fewer choices. Girls who miss out or drop out of school are especially vulnerable to it—while the more exposure a girl has to formal education and the better-off her family is, the more likely marriage

is to be postponed. And that is the heart of the matter – when girls have a choice, they marry later. Parents, communities and countries want the very best for their girls. The best for girls is the product of education, good health, including sexual and reproductive health, and broad choices that are to be freely made, not only in regards to marriage, but in all aspects of her life. Investing in girls, developing their social and economic assets, ensuring they have access to education and health services, and ensuring that they can postpone marriage until they are ready; all this means greater dignity for women. It also means healthier families and higher levels of gender equality. This in turn makes for stronger societies and more vibrant economies. Investment in later marriage for girls is investment in development for everyone". p. 4

[Disponível on-line »](#)

Convenção sobre a Eliminação de todas as formas de Discriminação contra as Mulheres em resumo. Para adolescentes (2011)

Publicação da UNICEF. [Disponível on-line »](#)

How come you allow little girls to get married? Child marriage in Yemen (2011)

Publicação da Human Rights Watch: "Yemen, the poorest country in the Middle East, is beset by high unemployment, widespread corruption and rampant human rights abuses. These abuses include child marriages, which are widespread.

According to a nationally representative survey conducted by the Yemeni government and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) in 2006, 14 percent of girls in Yemen are married before reaching age 15, and 52 percent are married before 18.

A 2005 study by Sanaa University noted that, in some rural areas, girls as young as eight are married". p. 1

[Disponível on-line »](#)

Situação mundial da infância 2009 (2009)

Documento da responsabilidade da UNICEF: "O casamento infantil é uma violação dos direitos da criança, comprometendo o desenvolvimento das meninas e resultando com frequência em gravidez precoce e isolamento social. Embora não seja um tema tratado diretamente na Convenção sobre os Direitos da Criança, o casamento infantil está vinculado a outros direitos e é reconhecido na Declaração Universal dos

Direitos Humanos como o "direito ao consentimento livre e pleno com o casamento" (artigo 16). A Convenção sobre a Eliminação de Todas as Formas de Violência contra as Mulheres estabelece que "o noivado e o casamento de uma criança não terá efeito legal", e conclama os Estados a estabelecer por lei uma idade mínima para o casamento e a tornar obrigatório o registro do casamento (artigo 16). Apesar do compromisso

internacional com relação às mudanças, muitas sociedades e comunidades mantêm a prática do casamento de meninas e meninos jovens devido às fortes pressões sociais no nível da comunidade. Em todas as partes do mundo, mais de 60 milhões de mulheres com idade entre 20 e 24 anos casaram-se antes de completar 18 anos". P. 33

[Disponível on-line »](#)

Ending child marriage: a guide for global policy action (2006)

Publicação da responsabilidade da International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF): "Ending Child Marriage: A Guide for Global Policy Action makes a strong case for international action, and strengthens the advocacy efforts of development practitioners and women's and children's rights activists to end child marriage. This work is a result of a series of technical consultations on child marriage, organized by the International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF) in collaboration with the Forum on Marriage and the Rights of Women and Girls. This practical tool documents the special needs of child brides and outlines the nature of the economic and social factors which reinforce the practice. It provides solutions based on a child protection framework, and advocates for the use of legal, pol-

icy and multi-sector programme strategies for delaying child marriage for those at risk and meeting the needs of young women who are newly married. It will add value to other ongoing efforts to end child marriage and promote the rights and true voices of countless young people, in particular girls and young women around the globe, who have been marginalized for far too long. IPPF's mission includes a commitment to "defend the rights of all young people to enjoy their sexual lives free from ill health, unwanted pregnancy, violence and discrimination." We will continue to collaborate and advocate for an enabling policy environment to bring an end to child marriage. This advocacy tool is also part of the wider initiative on preventing HIV infection, particularly among adolescent girls,

which is led by the United Nations Global Coalition on Women and AIDS (GCWA), with the support of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and Young Positives. Collectively, we have the power to change the course of this epidemic and bring dignity and empowerment to women and girls. We believe that bold policy decision making that takes into account the special concerns of child brides in national and international policy and programme responses will help us today to transform the lives of tomorrow's generation. pp. 2-3

[Disponível on-line »](#)



UNICEF Bangladesh

Too young to wed: the lives, rights, and health of young married girls (2003)

Documento da International Center for Research on Women: "Millions of young girls in the developing world are married when they are still children, and as a result are denied the ordinary experiences that young people elsewhere take for granted: schooling, good health,

economic opportunities, and friendship with peers. Despite national laws and international agreements forbidding child marriage, gender roles and marriage systems in many countries dictate the practice, through which girls are deprived of basic rights and subjected to

discrimination and health risks. This position paper outlines the causes and consequences of child marriage, as well as policy and programmatic responses to early marriage".

[Disponível on-line »](#)

Dados estatísticos

The State of the World's Children 2016: A fair chance for every child (2016)

Uma publicação da UNICEF onde destacamos as páginas 38 e 39. Da página 150 a 153 apresentam-se dados estatísticos: "Child marriage and women's reproductive health management also influence child mortality patterns. While child marriage rates are decreasing, each year about 15 million girls are married before the age of 18. These girls represent a highly vulnerable group: They are denied their childhood, face limited opportunities for

education and often begin child-bearing too early. Girls in the poorest 20 per cent of the population, as well as those living in rural areas, face the greatest risks. In Africa, the level of child marriage among the poorest has remained unchanged since 1990.

Around the world, child brides are less likely than adult women to receive adequate medical care while pregnant. The lack of care, and the fact that girls are

not physically mature enough to give birth, put both mothers and their babies at risk. Complications during pregnancy and childbirth are the second leading cause of death for girls between ages 15 and 19. And babies born to mothers under age 20 are 1.5 times more likely to die during the first 28 days than babies born to mothers in their twenties or thirties".

[Disponível on-line »](#)



Enquadramento legal

Código Penal

“Artigo 154.º-B

Casamento forçado

Quem constringer outra pessoa a contrair casamento ou união equiparável à do casamento é punido com pena de prisão até 5 anos.

Artigo 154.º-C

Atos preparatórios

Os atos preparatórios do crime previsto no artigo anterior, incluindo o de atrair a vítima para território diferente do da sua residência com o intuito de a constringer a contrair casamento ou união equiparável à do casamento, são punidos com pena de prisão até 1 ano ou pena de multa até 120 dias.

[Disponível on-line »](#)



General Assembly Resolution on early, child and forced marriage (A/C.3/69/L.23) 14 november 2014

Resolução da Assembleia Geral das Nações Unidas: "The General Assembly (...) Urges States to continue to develop their national strategies, translating them into concrete programmes and actions and a more systematic, comprehensive, multisectoral and sustained approach, aimed at eliminating all forms of violence against women, including by achieving gender equality

and the empowerment of women and girls and keeping in view the State's responsibility to act with due diligence to prevent, protect against and investigate all acts of violence against women, prosecute and punish perpetrators and provide for redress for victims of such violence, by, for example: (...) (q) Ensuring also that the appropriate legislative, administra-

tive, social and educational measures are in place to eliminate the occurrence of child and forced marriages and female genital mutilation and to provide information regarding the harm associated with these practices". pp. 1-10

[Disponível on-line »](#)

Convenção de Istambul (Resol. da AR n.º 4/2013, de 21 de Janeiro)

Convenção do Conselho da Europa para a Prevenção e o Combate à Violência contra as Mulheres e a Violência Doméstica, adotada em Istambul, a 11 de maio de 2011:

" Artigo 32.º - Consequências civis dos casamentos forçados

As Partes deverão adotar as medidas legislativas ou outras que se revelem necessárias para assegurar que os casamentos celebrados à força pos-

sam ser anuláveis, anulados ou dissolvidos sem encargos financeiros ou administrativos excessivos para a vítima.

(...)

Artigo 37.º Casamento forçado

As Partes deverão adotar as medidas legislativas ou outras que se revelem necessárias para assegurar a criminalização da conduta de quem intencionalmente forçar um adulto ou

uma criança a contrair matrimónio.

As Partes deverão adotar as medidas legislativas ou outras que se revelem necessárias para assegurar a criminalização da conduta de quem intencionalmente atrair uma criança ou um adulto para o território de outra Parte ou de outro Estado que não aquele onde residam, com o intuito de os forçar a contrair matrimónio".

[Disponível on-line »](#)

Child marriage and the law: legislative reform initiative paper series (2008)

Publicação da UNICEF: "Child marriage violates the rights of the girl child to be free from all forms of discrimination, inhuman and degrading treatment, and slavery. This paper analyses the different legal frameworks and human rights dimensions of child marriage within a feminist perspective. The value of a rights based approach as a

powerful advocacy tool to monitor child marriage is at the heart of this paper. Further, the paper highlights the interconnectivity between international human rights law, constitutional guarantees of gender equality, and other gender friendly laws in combating child marriage. The main thrust of this paper is that early marriage is a viola-

tion of fundamental human rights and that both state and non-state actors must be held accountable under international treaty obligations to combat early child marriage". p. i

[Disponível on-line »](#)

Resolution 68/148 of 18 December 2013 on child, early and forced marriage

Resolução adotada pela Assembleia Geral das Nações Unidas. [Disponível on-line »](#)

Convenção sobre a Eliminação de Todas as Formas de Discriminação contra as Mulheres (1979)

Adotada pela resolução n.º 34/180 da Assembleia Geral das Nações Unidas, de 18 de Dezembro de 1979. Assinada por Portugal em 24 de Abril de 1980:

Artigo 16.º

“1 - Os Estados Partes tomam todas as medidas necessárias para eliminar a discriminação

contra as mulheres em todas as questões relativas ao casamento e às relações familiares e, em particular, asseguram, com base na igualdade dos homens e das mulheres: (...) b) O mesmo direito de escolher livremente o cônjuge e de só contrair casamento de livre e plena vontade (...)

2 - A promessa de casamento e o casamento de crianças não terão efeitos jurídicos e todas as medidas necessárias, incluindo disposições legislativas, serão tomadas com o fim de fixar uma idade mínima para o casamento e de tornar obrigatório o registo do casamento num registo oficial.

[Disponível on-line »](#)

“A Convenção sobre a Eliminação de todas as formas de Discriminação contra a Mulher (CEDAW) - A CEDAW foi aprovada pelas Nações Unidas no dia 18 de dezembro de 1979, com o objetivo de eliminar a discriminação contra todas as meninas e todas as mulheres. Em 2010, a CEDAW havia sido ratificada por 186 países. A ratificação significa que esses governos selaram acordo no sentido de fazer todo o possível para garantir os direitos previstos na CEDAW, inclusive incorporando-os à sua própria legislação. Assim sendo, os governos que ratificaram a CEDAW têm o dever de eliminar a discriminação contra meninas e mulheres em seus países”.

[Site da UNICEF \(acesso em 10-12-2016\)](#)

Convention on consent to marriage, minimum age for marriage and registration of marriages (1962)

Resolução adotada pela Assembleia Geral das Nações Unidas: “Reaffirming that all States, including those which have or assume responsibility for the administration of Non-Self-Governing and Trust Territories until their achievement of independence, should take all appropriate measures with a view to abolishing such customs, ancient laws and practices by ensuring, inter alia, complete free-

dom in the choice of a spouse, eliminating completely child marriages and the betrothal of young girls before the age of puberty, establishing appropriate penalties where necessary and establishing a civil or other register in which all marriages will be recorded...”

[Disponível on-line »](#)



Sites recomendados

[United Nations Population Fund – Child Marriage](#)

[International Center for Research on Women](#)

[Human Rights Watch – End Child Marriage](#)

[UNICEF– Child Marriage](#)

[Girls Not Brides](#)

[Campanha contra casamento infantil - This bride is 11 years old...](#)

[Campanha contra casamento infantil - 14 Million Screams](#)



Human Rights Watch