



Aristotelio College Model United Nations

## **The United Nations Children's Fund committee (UNICEF)**

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### **The Issue of Child Marriage.**

**Contributors:** Koskina Stavroula, Kourti-Menou Margarita, Angelakis Alexandros

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## INTRODUCTION

We, the chairs of the United Nations Children's Fund Committee, would like to welcome you to the 15<sup>th</sup> Arc MUN. We can assure you that we will have a really interesting debate on our topic. However, some research is necessary in order to be prepared and feel the vibes. We will try our best to make your experience unforgettable. If you have any questions or need some further help, feel free to contact us via email at [unicef.arcmun@gmail.com](mailto:unicef.arcmun@gmail.com). We also advise you to join our committee's group on Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1639371472742940/>), so we can contact each other before the conference.

## GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS AND INFORMATION

In order for you to be fully prepared for the session, you should follow the next steps:

1. Get accustomed to the procedure of the session. Please feel free to read the procedure in the official website of ArcMUN 2017. (<http://aristoteliocollegemun.weebly.com/rules-of-procedure.html>) We will explain the procedure once more when in person, so please do not worry that much for the rules from now.
2. Read your Study Guide and indulge yourselves in individual research. Read the links provided in this guide and also do research in other websites and mass media. However, keep in mind that you should conduct your research based on official data provided by formal websites (i.e. the UN website, the European Commission etc.)
3. Know the policy of the country you are representing. You should always bear in mind that during the conference you will be representing a **specific country** and its policies and not your personal point of view on the issue debated.
4. You should know not only your country's view on the topic, but also some general information regarding alliances, geopolitical state, natural resources etc.
5. Write and send to the committee email before **February 1st**, a position paper, in which you will explain **your country's point of view, measures and possible suggestions on our topic; "The Issue of Child Marriage"**.
6. Visit the session's website to see the official example of a position paper and how it should be structured.

## **INTERNATIONAL FRAMEWORK**

In 1989 the United Nations adopted the treaty produced by “The Convention on The Rights of The Child”, making it clear that human right violations are to be taken seriously, especially when their targets are children. The phenomenon of child marriage consist obvious violations of such rights, that however the determination to be tackled, has not yet been terminated. The severity of this issue has repeatedly been underlined in the context of the United Nations and by members of the civil society. Nonetheless, child abusing and marriage continues to be happening, ruining the lives of the children throughout the world. All rights reserved

## **BASIC DEFINITIONS**

### **Child grooming**

“Child grooming refers to an act of deliberately establishing an emotional connection with a child to prepare the child for child abuse. Child grooming is undertaken usually to carry out sexual abuse and other child exploitation like trafficking of children, child prostitution or the production of child pornography. Currently, child grooming occurs through the use of internet.”

(US Legal)

### **Child marriage**

“Formal marriages or customary and statutory unions recognized as marriage before the age of 18 (at 18 a girl is still considered a child under the Convention on the Rights of the Child, except in countries where the age of majority is lower). Following marriage a girl is expected to set aside her childhood and assume the role of a woman, embarking immediately upon a life that includes sex, motherhood and all the household duties traditionally expected of a wife. Although early marriage extends to boys as well, the number of girls involved is far greater.”

(United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund)

## **DESCRIPTION OF THE ISSUE**

This universal approach suggested by the geographical vagueness of the issues can also be corroborated by the vast nature of the facts on the issues. For example, taking into account that  $\frac{1}{3}$  girls in the developing world are said to be married before the age of 18, it is only logical that the response cannot be targeted to any specific region. Additionally, it should be noted that these problems are not “girl problems” as falsely perceived by a big part of the society; it should be noted that men are affected too since 156 million men in today’s world were married before the age of 18. Furthermore, the tendency for further globalization in conjunction with numbers such as the estimated additional 1.2 billion girls that are going to be married by 2050 makes these issues obstacles for the further development of our world. This is exactly the general impact of these problems, extending to spheres such as gender equality, health, education, safety and poverty.

## **Major Countries and Organizations Involved**

- United Nations International Children’s Emergency Fund (UNICEF)
- CARE
- Girls Not Brides
- Niger
- Bangladesh
- Malawi

## **INTERNATIONAL FRAMEWORK**

- Convention on Consent to Marriage, Minimum Age for Marriage and Registration of Marriages (1962)
- The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (1979)
- Global Goals for Development

## **POINTS TO CONSIDER DURING THE DEBATE**

- Tackling localised grooming.
- Dealing with the issue of child marriage in theocratic states.
- The issue of marriage market. How to detect it and eliminate it.
- Measures to reduce illiteracy aiming to reduce the levels of children abuse all around the world.

## **SUGGESTED BIBLIOGRAPHY**

<http://vowsofpoverty.care.org/>

<http://www.icrw.org/preventing-child-marriage>

<http://16days.thepixelproject.net/16-organisations-working-to-stop-child-marriage/>

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/preventing-abuse/child-abuse-and-neglect/grooming/>

<http://definitions.uslegal.com/c/child-grooming/>

[http://networkofcommunityactivities.org.au/wpcontent/uploads/2013/03/sexual\\_grooming\\_factsheet.pdf](http://networkofcommunityactivities.org.au/wpcontent/uploads/2013/03/sexual_grooming_factsheet.pdf)

<http://www.icrw.org/child-marriage-facts-and-figures>

[http://www.unicef.org/policyanalysis/files/Child\\_Marriage\\_and\\_the\\_Law\(1\).pdf](http://www.unicef.org/policyanalysis/files/Child_Marriage_and_the_Law(1).pdf)

<http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/cedaw/text/econvention.htm>

<http://www.girlsnotbrides.org/ending-child-marriage-will-help-us-achieve-the-global-goals-heres-how/>

<http://www.girlsnotbrides.org/the-partnership/what-we-do/>