

Resolution 8

CHILD MARRIAGE

Proposed by: Mexican Federation of University Women (FEMU)

Seconded by: Canadian Federation of University Women (CFUW)

The 32nd GWI General Assembly wishes to reaffirm Resolution 2013/2 and resolves that:

- 1. National Federations and Associations (NFAs) should urge their respective governments to implement legislation and practices to prevent child marriages, and provide opportunities for all children, especially girls, to complete secondary education;**
- 2. GWI should use its influence to promote international agreements to forbid child marriages and raise awareness of girls' rights to education and a better future.**

Suggested Plan of Action:

1. NFAs should encourage governments to promote early education in human rights with a gender perspective
2. GWI should use its standing committees and its consultative status at the United Nations to urge international organizations and national members to consider this resolution to eradicate child marriages
3. NFAs should urge their respective governments to implement social programmes to raise awareness in communities against child marriages and raise awareness of girls' rights to education and a better future

Supporting Statement

The situation regarding child marriage is due to several factors: cultural issues such as traditions and customs that still exist in some indigenous communities, marriage debt where parents give their daughters in marriage to settle a debt, arranged marriages, reparation issues where there has been rape, the belief that the father owns his daughters, incestuous child marriages of girls with their own father, the lack of specificity in civil codes of the legal age for marriage, teenage

pregnancy, poverty, escaping domestic violence, and the lack of opportunities for access to rights such as education, health, and housing.

According to a REDIM (Network for the Rights of Children in Mexico in English) statistic, in 2015, 300,331 girls between 15 and 17 years (9.4 percent) recorded were married, separated, divorced, cohabiting or were widows. A total of 23,605 women from 10 to 14 years, that is, 0.43 per cent, were married, separated, divorced, cohabiting or were widows.

In Mexico, 0.12 per cent of girls aged from 10 to 14 years had at least one child. Guerrero, Tabasco and Michoacan have the highest rates of marriage, motherhood and adolescence.

REFERENCE:

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