

DAY SIX: Nov. 30th

CHILD BRIDES

Each year 15 million girls are married as children.

The Story of a Child Bride

On her wedding day as an 11-year-old bride, Noora remembers her childish delight at receiving gifts and being thrilled because friends and family gathered for a three day party in her honour. Noora didn't realise that dressing up as an adult and putting on jewellery meant she was now the bride of a distant cousin. He was three times her age, and saw marriage as a means to act like a depraved animal.

(Source: www.theguardian.com/lifeandstyle/2013)

Question:

What is my reaction to this true story?

.....



Global Facts about Children

- If all children learned to read, 171 million people could be lifted out of poverty.
- 5.3 million children under five died in 2018, whilst 1.3 billion live in extreme poverty.
- 34.3 million girls of primary school age are out of school (Oct 2019)
<https://www.globalpartnership.org/data-and-results>
- Globally, 52% of all refugees were children i.e. 13.2 million in 2018.
<https://www.globalcitizen.org/en/content/un-refugee-agency-global-trends>

'Girls Not Brides' is a campaign of 'The Elders', a group of former leaders that has become a global partnership of 800 civil society organisations. They are committed to ending child marriage and enabling girls to fulfil their potential. www.girlsnotbrides.org/

POPE FRANCIS has pledged:

"..To work strenuously for the protection of minors and their dignity, including online" He said a coordinated, international approach is needed, to protect children from the "corruption of their minds and violence against their bodies".
Rome 6th October 2017

UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), most of these reference Women, and children, particularly SDG # 5:

Achieve gender equality and empower all Women and Girls

Target 5.3: *Eliminate all harmful practices, such as child, early and forced marriage and female genital mutilation.*



www.google.ie/search?q=free+images

UN Convention on the Rights of Children (CRC) Article 4: *Governments have a responsibility to ensure children's rights are respected and protected.*

CEDAW (Convention on Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women) Adopted 1979 with the aim of:

- ✓ Reducing feminized poverty and exclusion
- ✓ Ending violence against women
- ✓ Achieving gender equality during peace and war

Suggest reading this during **16 Days**
<http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/cedaw/>

ACTION I will take to protect children:

- ✚ See what you could do by reading:
<https://www.girlsnotbrides.org/take-action/>
- ✚ Offer support to organisations working to protect and look after children's welfare.
- ✚ Campaign to ensure all children receive their basic rights in my country.
<https://en.unesco.org/gem-report/sites/>
<http://srsq.violenceagainstchildren.org>

Prepared by the 'Future We Need' (FWN) a faith-based group, with members from the Columbans, Franciscans, Josephites, Mercy, Presentation and Salesians.

(Updated November, 2019)

VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN is a systematic and widespread human rights violation. It cuts across age, socio-economic, educational and geographic boundaries...



www.google.ie/search?q=images+of+orange+the+world+for+free

49 Countries have no laws to protect women from domestic violence. <http://hdr.undp.org/en/content/violence-against-women-cause-and-consequence-inequality>.

“GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE - A GLOBAL EPIDEMIC ... endangers the life of women & girls with negative consequences not only for them, but also for their children & communities. Ending this scourge is integral to the development of women’s human capital & unleashing their contribution to economic growth.” (Feb. 2018 - World Bank study)
<https://www.worldbank.org/en/news/press-release/2018/02/01/more-than-1-billion-women-lack-legal-protection>

CHILD MARRIAGE....



www.google.ie/search?q=Photos+of+child+brides+pixabay

New data (2018) confirm that practice of child marriage has continued to decline around the world, with accelerated progress in the last 10 years. However, **12 MILLION GIRLS** are still married in childhood each year (UNICEF 2018).

16 Days of Activism Against Gender Violence...



DAY 6

30th

November

CHILD BRIDES

