



Conference: FORCED AND EARLY MARRIAGE: A Severe Human Rights

Violation: May 24, 2019 from 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.

*Diplomatische Akademie Wien, Favoritenstraße 15a, 1040 Wien/Vienna,
Österreich/Austria*

In examining ***the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development***, within the context of child marriage it is easy to see that achieving Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 5 which targets gender equality and empowerment of women and girls, as well as SDGs 1, 2, 3, 4 and 8 will not be achieved unless we can find culturally sensitive ways to end child, early and forced marriage.

This Conference is to introduce the UNICEF/UNFPA Global Program to Accelerate Action to End Child Marriage. Building upon the successful project in Niger last biennium, ZONTA International has committed US\$2,000,000 to UNICEF USA to support the UNICEF/UNFPA Global Program to Accelerate Action to End Child Marriage in 12 countries. In seven ZONTA countries: Bangladesh, Burkina Faso, Ghana, India, Nepal, Niger, Sierra Leone and Uganda as well as in Ethiopia, Mozambique, Yemen and Zambia.

ZONTA is the first private sector donor to the Global Program to Accelerate Action to End Child Marriage. The program is turning commitment into tangible action to effect meaningful and lasting change in girls' lives by focusing on five main strategies. It brings together governments, civil society, families and young people in a collective effort to prevent girls from marrying too young and to support those already married as girls.

Worldwide, almost 650 million women alive today were married before their 18th birthday and an estimated 280 million more girls are at risk of becoming brides. If current trends continue, the number of girls and women married as children will reach nearly 1 billion by 2030.

ZONTA International President Susanne von Bassewitz, experts from UN, politics and science will be invited as keynote speakers and for panel discussions. In the afternoon thematic market places will discuss best practice examples and future activities.

See draft programme