



PODER LEGISLATIVO  
*Cámara de Senadores*



Gender equality: an essential condition for achieving  
the  
17 Sustainable Development Goals  
Target 5.3: Child, early and forced marriage (CEFM)

Accelerating Progress on Agenda 2030:  
Good Practices for Parliamentary Action

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WiFi:

parlamericas

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congreso

#ParlAmericasSDG

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

- **Harmful Practices:**

- Closely related to the roles assigned to each gender or sex.
- Rooted in attitudes and social practices that violate them - women, girls and adolescents - because they are considered inferior to men, adolescents and children on the basis of stereotyped beliefs and functions.
- Gender violence, power imbalances, inequalities and discrimination are perpetuated.

- **Child marriage and early unions happen in different countries, cultures and religions.**

- **30%** of adolescents under 18 are married in South Asia;
- **38%** in Sub Saharan Africa;
- **25%** in Latin America and the Caribbean;
- **17%** in the Middle East and North Africa;
- and in some communities in Europe and North America.



# Why does it happen?

Social gender norms, culture  
and tradition

Poverty and lack of  
opportunities



## GENDER INEQUALITY

720 million women  
156 million men

Insecurity



# Consequences

- **Health:** Pregnancy and childbirth are the leading cause of death in women aged 15 to 19 years.
- **Violence:** Physical, sexual and emotional abuse.
- **Education:** Access to school ends with union, women with less schooling get married earlier.
- **Poverty:** Girls and adolescents from poorer families are twice as likely to marry before the age of 18. Married and less educated women have less income in their jobs and less access to paid jobs.
- **Economy:** Addressing the consequences of early unions is much more expensive than preventing them. The impact of child unions cost States trillions of dollars.
- **Inequity:** The future and the power to make decisions are limited.



# Regional Situation on CEFM:

Situation with little recognition in our region:

- 5% of girls are married or in a union before age 15.
- 25% of teenage girls are in a union before they turn 18.
- 70% informal unions.

Latin America and the Caribbean is the only region that has not significantly changed its prevalence of CEFM in the last 25 years.  
Silent alarm.

We need more evidence to develop effective responses. It must be approached by focusing on structural causes.

## Child Marriage prevalence in Latin America and the Caribbean

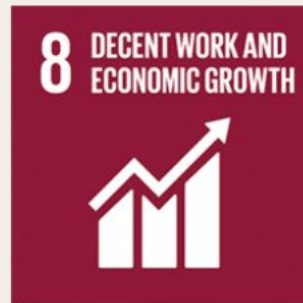
Country	% of girls married before 15 years old	% of girls married before 18 years old
LAC	5	25
Barbados	1	11
Belize	6	34
Bolivia	3	20
Brazil	6	26
Colombia	5	23
Costa Rica	7	21
Cuba	5	26
Dominican Republic	12	36
Ecuador	3	20
El Salvador	6	26
Guatemala	6	30
Guyana	4	30
Haiti	2	15
Honduras	8	34
Jamaica	1	8
Mexico	4	26
Nicaragua	10	35
Panama	7	26
Paraguay	4	22
Peru	3	19
Suriname	5	19
Trinidad and Tobago	3	11
Uruguay	1	25

<https://data.unicef.org/resources/dataset/child-marriage/>, updated October 2019

<b>Country</b>	<b>Frequency (%)</b>
<b>Nicaragua</b>	<b>41</b>
<b>República Dominicana</b>	<b>37</b>
<b>Brasil</b>	<b>36</b>
<b>Honduras</b>	<b>34</b>
<b>Guatemala</b>	<b>30</b>
<b>Belice; Cuba; Panamá</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>Uruguay; El Salvador</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>Colombia; Guyana; México</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>Bolivia; Ecuador</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>Costa Rica</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>Perú; Surinam</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>Haití; Paraguay</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>Barbados</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>Jamaica; Trinidad y Tobago; Santa Lucía</b>	<b>8</b>

Percentage of women between the ages of 20 and 24 in a couple or married for the first time before the age of 18.

# WHAT SDGS ARE AT RISK IF WE DO NOT END CHILD, EARLY AND FORCED MARRIAGE AND WHY?







# The role of parliamentarians in the eradication of child marriage: A toolkit

- Support the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals, including goal 5.3 to eradicate CEFM by 2030:
  - Encourage governments to support the implementation of the SDGs
  - Build consensus on common indicators of progress
  - Participate in the creation of plans for national SDG development
  - Consult ministries
  - Public activities on CEFM
- Promote the adoption, strengthening and implementation of CEFM laws
- Allocate of resources to the eradication of CEFM
- Be accountable and demand accountability
- Collaborate and be opinion leaders