IS CHILD MARRIAGE CHILD LABOUR?

How does “child marriage” measure up against the ILO’s criteria for child labour?

**ANY FORM OF CHILD LABOUR**
- Is mentally, physically, socially or morally dangerous or harmful to children ✓ ✓ ✓
- Interferes with children’s schooling ✓ ✓ ✓

**THE WORST FORMS OF CHILD LABOUR**
- Include slavery or practices similar to slavery, such as the sale and trafficking of children ✓ ✓ ✓

**HAZARDOUS WORK**
- Exposes children to physical abuse ✓ ✓ ✓
- Exposes children to psychological abuse ✓ ✓ ✓
- Exposes children to sexual abuse ✓ ✓ ✓
- Forces children to work long hours ✓ ✓ ✓
- Forces children to work night shifts ✓ ✓ ✓
- Unreasonably confines children to the premises of the employer ✓ ✓ ✓
- Could result in a child’s death ✓ ✓ ✓
- Could result in a child’s injury, illness or permanent disability ✓ ✓ ✓
- Should not be done under age 18 ✓ ✓ ✓

See the difference? Neither do we.

GIRLS COUNT; COUNT GIRLS

Labour unions can protect the futures of millions of girls.

1. Insist that the ILO acknowledge that child “marriage” is child labour;
2. Demand that the ILO include victims of child “marriage” in its child labour statistics; and
3. Work with governments and the ILO to enforce laws against child marriage—first exposing and then ending one of the worst forms of child labour.

Take action now. Visit: childmarriageischildlabour.com

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CHILD MARRIAGE IS CHILD LABOUR
THE INVISIBLE GIRLS
CHILD LABOUR DISGUISED AS "MARRIAGE"

COUNTING GIRLS
A close look at ILO statistics reveals a perplexing contrast: equal numbers of boys and girls are trapped in child labour until about age 11. But by their mid-teens, boy child labourers outnumber girls by roughly 4:1. Where are the girls?

The answer: each year, another 15 million under-age girls forced into servitude are excluded from the ILO’s child labour statistics. Why? Because they’ve been “married.”

Our response: child "marriage" is child labour. In fact, its conditions meet the ILO’s standards for the worst forms of child labour. But a flaw in reasoning leaves girls invisible.

CALL IT WHAT IT IS
The ILO argues that when an illegal wedding ceremony thrusts a young girl into taking up the traditional roles of a wife—including child bearing and rearing, household management, washing, cooking, cleaning, and elder care—she’s simply performing household chores in her own home.

We strongly disagree. Governments set the minimum age of marriage. Any man who attempts to wed a girl under that age is breaking the law: the child is legally incapable of consenting to marriage; their living arrangement is prohibited by law; his domicile is not legally hers, and so she’s not performing “household chores in her own home.” Under the law, that child is not a “wife,” but the victim of an egregious crime.

RIGHTS DENIED
Child "marriage" is illegal because it puts girls in jeopardy, violates their rights as children, and distorts the rest of their lives. Its victims are raped repeatedly and subjected to high-risk pregnancies, life-threatening childbirth complications and heightened exposure to sexually transmitted infections such as HIV. They are denied schooling, liberty, and recreation; deprived of their potential and free will; robbed of their rightful homes; and inducted early into lives of subservient, unpaid work.

Child "marriage" is child labour.