

21st July, 2019

Mr. Audu Ayinla Kadiri  
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary  
Permanent Representative  
Permanent Mission of the Federal Republic of Nigeria to the United Nations

Dear Mr. Kadiri,

Child marriage is a critical human rights issue affecting millions of girls all over the world. According to UNICEF, Nigeria has the third largest number of Child Brides globally - 18% of Nigerian girls are married by age 15 and 44% by age 18.

We request your co-sponsorship of the Child, Early and Forced Marriage Resolution at the 41st Session of the Human Rights Council which has a sponsorship **deadline of 26<sup>th</sup> July, 2019**.

Nigeria's support of the resolution demonstrates the government and all stakeholders' responsibility and commitment to addressing the issue of child marriage which is often overlooked. The issue of Child Marriage violates the human rights and the personal development of girls and, ultimately, nations. Furthermore, the acknowledgment of the harmful impact of child marriage on girls can positively lead to solution-based initiatives which enable the ability of achieving equality (SDG 5) which supports the education, economic and socio-political representation and contribution of girls.

Indeed, this is the third resolution on Child, Early and Forced Marriage to be reviewed by the United Nations Human Rights Council but this current resolution recognises child marriage as a human rights and development issue. Moreover, it highlights gender inequality as a root cause of its prevalence whilst emphasising the consequences of child marriage.

Child Marriage has devastating ramifications on the victims as it exposes them to violence as well as poverty and limits their access to education, health and economic independence. Eradicating child marriage (SDG 5:3) is critical to building a sustainable and progressive Twenty-First Century society where all citizens can participate, contribute and commit to the citizenry and development of their community and country - economically, socially and politically.

We urge you as the Nigerian representative to express the country's pledge to ending child marriage by co-sponsoring the Child, Early and Forced Marriage Resolution. It is a critical matter which requires prioritisation in order to **SAVE OUR GIRLS** as it is an essential gateway to achieving the Sustainable Global Goals which ensure a wholesome future for all.

Kind regards,



Dr. Ama Onyerinma  
Founder & Executive Director  
Mindful Giving Changes Lives™



Prince Gbenga Oguntayo  
Chairperson  
Mindful Giving Changes Lives™

CC: Mrs. Aisha Buhari  
CC: Mrs. Dolapo Osinbajo

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