

FREEDOMUNITED

# OUTLAW FORCED CHILD MARRIAGE IN NIGER

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## CAMPAIGN BACKGROUND

Three-quarters of girls in Niger are married before they are 18. Child marriage often amounts to slavery, for example, when girls have not given their free and full consent, are subjected to control, exploited and unable to leave. The younger a child is, the less autonomy they have to give their free consent. By tackling early child marriage in countries where girls are vulnerable to slavery, we can help put an end to forced child marriage and slavery.

An outlawing of child marriage in Niger's national civil code, or law, would send a message to communities, who often turn to traditional justice, that the practice is unacceptable. Furthermore, it could act as a stepping stone for directing further government resources towards education and rehabilitation programs.

By educating the public about the prevalence of forced child marriage in Niger, we can show support for a move towards formally outlawing child marriage, which would complement the Government's existing social programs aimed at educating girls. You can see further details about the campaign [here](#).

### YOU CAN HELP BY:

- 1 Spreading the word on social media
- 2 Calling on your networks by email
- 3 Facilitating a group conversation on the topic

### CAMPAIGN LOGISTICS:

We are calling on President Mahamadou Issoufouhas of Niger to abolish child marriage by raising the minimum age of marriage for girls as well as boys to 18 years old. Through our [campaign](#), we will call on the Niger Government to take immediate action.

**This Campaign Kit will help you to promote the initiative.**

Thank you for being part of it:



Twitter

@freedomunitedHQ  
#ForcedMarriage



Facebook

@freedomunitedHQ  
#ForcedMarriage



Youtube

@freedomunited  
#ForcedMarriage



Instagram

@freedomunitedHQ  
#ForcedMarriage

## WAYS YOU CAN PARTICIPATE

### Tell everyone about the campaign on social media!

Feel free to copy and paste the content below in posts on your social media accounts.



Help @FreedomUnitedHQ bring an end to forced child marriage in #Niger by signing the petition #ForcedMarriage <http://bit.ly/2rYdAXx>



Let's call on the Niger Govt to outlaw child #ForcedMarriage <http://bit.ly/2rYdAXx>



We are working with Freedom United to make sure no child is forced into marriage. Join us in calling on Niger to be a part of the change <http://bit.ly/2rYdAXx>



Forced child marriage is unacceptable – help put a stop to it today by signing Freedom United's petition #ForcedMarriage <http://bit.ly/2rYdAXx>

## WAYS YOU CAN PARTICIPATE

### Sign the Petition:

The more petition signatures we can gather, the more public support we can demonstrate to the Niger Government to end child marriage, encouraging Nigerien society to stop forcing girls into marriage. Ask your networks and supporters to get involved!

### Send an Email:

We've put together some draft text below, feel free to amend and share with your networks and contacts:

*We support Freedom United's '[Outlaw forced child marriage in Niger](#)' campaign because we believe that no child should be forced into marriage.*

*Niger has the highest rate of child marriage in the world, and a President who has pledged to tackle the problem. We can take advantage of this situation to call on the Niger Government to outlaw forced child marriage. Join us in calling for the Niger Government to raise the age of marriage for girls in Niger to 18, as it is for boys.*

*Forced child marriage robs girls and boys of their freedom to choose a spouse, their sexual and reproductive choices and their right to an education.*

*We hope we can count on your support for our '[Outlaw forced child marriage in Niger](#)' campaign: [www.freedomunited.org/advocate/child-marriage-in-niger](http://www.freedomunited.org/advocate/child-marriage-in-niger)*

**Have an email coming up with little space or a P.S. you can share? Here's a shorter version:**

*We support Freedom United's '[Outlaw forced child marriage in Niger](#)' campaign because we believe that no child should be forced into marriage. Join us in calling for action from the Niger Government to put a stop to forced child marriage. Sign the petition here: [www.freedomunited.org/advocate/child-marriage-in-niger](http://www.freedomunited.org/advocate/child-marriage-in-niger)*

## Start a conversation:

One of the most important aims of this campaign is to get the public engaged and aware of forced child marriage in Niger. One way you can help spread the word is to hold a workshop or seminar in your group or organization to discuss the issues and get members thinking about the key subject matters of the campaign.

## Here are some questions to help frame your conversation:

- What do you think are some of the causes of forced child marriage in Niger?
- What do you think are some of the consequences of child marriage?
- Why do you think there is such a high proportion of child marriage in Niger (75% of girls are married under 18)?
- How would outlawing child marriage help end forced child marriage and do you think there's more the Government of Niger would need to do to succeed in tackling forced child marriage?
- Where else in the world do you think forced child marriage happens? Why is it such a global problem?
- What can the international community do to help put an end to forced child marriage in Niger?
- How can we, as a group, get the word out about the Freedom United 'Forced Child Marriage in Niger' campaign?

**We would love to know how you get on! Please add a comment to the campaign page, or send in photos of your group discussion to [info@freedomunited.org](mailto:info@freedomunited.org) and we will share it.**

## OUR PARTNERS



[Girls Not Brides](#) is a global partnership of more than 700 civil society organizations from over 85 countries committed to ending child marriage and enabling girls to fulfill their potential.

Members are based throughout Africa, Asia, the Middle East, Europe and the Americas. We share the conviction that every girl has the right to lead the life that she chooses and that, by ending child marriage, we can achieve a safer, healthier and more prosperous future for all.



La Coalition des Organisations Nigériennes des Droits de l'Enfant (CONIDE) is a coalition of organizations in Niger working towards the rights of the child. This organization includes over 60 member bodies and its objective is to coordinate actions, facilitate the sharing of experiences among actors and to build the capacities of members.

### Have any questions about the campaign?

Contact: Miriam Karmali, Advocacy: [miriam@freedomunited.org](mailto:miriam@freedomunited.org)

### Need some help spreading the word on social media?

Contact: Kat French, Social Media: [kat@freedomunited.org](mailto:kat@freedomunited.org)