

BACKGROUND

World Youth Foundation (an NGO with Special Consultative Status with ECOSOC) will be organizing the *International Conference On Child Marriage: “Strength In Unity, Girls Are Not Brides – A Global Youth Partnership To End Child Marriage”* in collaboration with the Ministry of Youth and Sports Malaysia, Ministry of Women, Family and Community Development Malaysia, ECPAT International, International Youth Council, ASIAN NGO and various other agencies. The International Conference invites participation of young people to discuss, understand, share, find solutions and develop strategies on issues pertaining to youth and child marriage that can be implemented at country level.

WYF works closely with the Ministry of Youth & Sports Malaysia, UN agencies i.e. UN WOMEN, UN IANYD, UN Youth, UN DPI/NGO, UNESCO, UNODC, UNAIDS, UNDP, OHCHR, UNEP, ESCAP, ILO, WHO, Commonwealth Secretariat, ASEAN Secretariat, World Bank, international NGOs, National Youth Councils, Regional Youth Caucuses, national bodies and local governments; etc. The Foundation seeks to support the work of the UN and supports the World Programme of Action for Youth to the Year 2000 and Beyond and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

World Youth Foundation is committed in its mission to promote goodwill and understanding amongst youth through organizing seminars, conferences and exchange programmes. The Foundation has organised various seminars/meetings, conferences/ dialogues for youth in areas such as population, HIV/AIDS, human rights, health, education, environment, climate change adaptation, disaster risk management, sustainable development, leadership training, youth empowerment, terrorism, racism, entrepreneurship, globalisation, culture and diversity, drug and substance abuse, peace and religion, trafficking, violence against women, conflict resolution over the years.

Through its programme the Foundation seeks **to engage, empower and educate** young people on a range of issues besides giving young people the opportunity to share best practices, networking and learning through people-to-people exchange.

The *International Conference on Child Marriage: “Strength In Unity, Girls Are Not Brides – A Global Youth Partnership To End Child Marriage”* will **provide young people, especially youth to be directly involved with SDG 5 – Achieve gender equality and empower women and girls**. Recognizing that youth participation is fundamental for accelerating the progress of **SDGs and the post-2030** agenda; youth engagement throughout the *International Conference* will be enhanced to ensure that their views and contributions are acknowledged and strengthened.

The International Conference scheduled to be held from **19th – 22th May 2016 at Temasek Hotel, Malacca, Malaysia**, hopes to facilitate an inclusive platform for effective partnerships with youth, youth-led organizations, youth organizations, youth ministries and relevant stakeholders to further strengthen inclusive youth participation in the decision-making processes and implementation of the SDGs and the post-2030 agenda. The four day event will operate primarily in an interactive mode and bring to fore key issues relating to Child Marriage in the form of lectures, case studies, video documentaries, skills sharing workshops, utilizing multi-media and informal discussions.