**Ending child marriage critical to achieving Sustainable Development Goals, says [member name] on International Day of the Girl Child**

11 October, 2017

[*CITY*] – As the world marks International Day of the Girl Child on 11 October, *Girls Not Brides* member [name of organisation] is calling upon the [international community/government/individual minister] to prioritise investments to end child marriage, stressing that ending the practice is critical to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

[Name], [Position] of [organisation name], a *Girls Not Brides* member organisation, said eight of the 17 SDGs could not be achieved without significant progress to end child marriage, including those related to poverty, health, education, nutrition, food security, inequality and economic growth.

[Insert quote here from above named spokesperson. Below is an example quote by *Girls Not Brides* Executive Director Lakshmi Sundaram.]

“A lack of attention to child marriage held us back from reaching six of the eight Millennium Development Goals. It’s vital that we don’t make the same mistake again,” said Ms Sundaram. “Child marriage is not just a gross human rights violation, it also prevents us from achieving many other development goals. How can we make progress on education, health or gender equality, for example, when so many girls are married off, kept out of school, have children before they are ready, and exposed to violence and exploitation?”

Across the world, 15 million girls are married each year before the age of 18. [Insert country specific statistic here if applicable]. Evidence shows that ending child marriage will catalyse efforts towards achieving the SDGs by improving educational attainment, income and maternal and child health. A recent study by the World Bank and International Center for Research on Women found that the practice costs the global economy trillions of dollars.

To illustrate how child marriage relates to the SDGs, *Girls Not Brides* has launched a short film, available online in nine languages.

[Insert second quote here from above named spokesperson e.g.]

“Our film shows that child marriage isn’t a niche issue, it’s *a key barrier* stopping us from achieving half of our development goals,” said Ms Sundaram. “If we truly want to alleviate poverty and improve the lives of the 15 million girls married every year, ending child marriage must be a global priority.”

## ENDS ##

**For more information, or for interviews with [above named spokesperson] please contact [Name], [Position], [Organisation]: [email] / [phone]**

**Notes to editors**

[Insert short overview of organisation]

[Member name] is a member of *Girls Not Brides*, a global partnership of more than 800 civil society organisations from over 95 countries committed to ending child marriage and enabling girls to fulfil their potential.

For more information about how the SDGs relate to child marriage visit our [website.](http://www.girlsnotbrides.org/ending-child-marriage-will-help-us-achieve-the-global-goals-heres-how/)

To illustrate how child marriage relates to the SDGs, *Girls Not Brides* has launched a short film, available online in nine languages: [Arabic](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R2PplwiIAsw), [Bangla](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=loRI_0wEVCs), [English](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OHjqASt2C5w), [French](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=109uNCPT1Xc), [Hindi](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S53vwYqts9Q), [Nepali](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZmoIGNShVFE), [Spanish](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bJNNYKlrd8c), [Portugese](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zomLzgfvz9A) and [Urdu](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r0QL5h6PSoU).