



## Guide to working on Beijing+25 and child marriage

### What is Beijing+25?

Beijing+25 stands for the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women and the [Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action](#) (1995). Adopted by 189 governments, this is a progressive agenda for achieving women's equality and empowerment. It outlines critical areas of concern around the obstacles to women's active participation in all spheres of public and private life, and to providing a full and equal share in economic, social, cultural and political decision-making. Governments that signed up to the declaration made national commitments to removing these barriers.

However, 25 years on, there are still major barriers to gender equality and the effective inclusion of women in all areas. This is why Beijing+25 is an important milestone, uniting us to insist on finally achieving the rights of all women and girls. UN Women is working with the Governments of Mexico and France to host [Generation Equality Forums](#) in Mexico City and in Paris in 2021 in order to mobilise the global community around gender equality. Other key moments that mark Beijing+25 and drive the agenda forward are the Commission on the Status of the Women (March 2021) and the High-Level Meeting of the UN General Assembly (October 2020).

The goal of these activities is to have an updated, progressive feminist agenda on women's and girls' rights; a set of cross-cutting partnerships and platforms across the private sector, governments, and civil society to mobilise action; and a robust accountability framework to measure progress towards achieving these recommendations.

### Why is Beijing+25 important for the child marriage movement?

With so many development issues competing for attention at the global and national level, Beijing+25 is important because it brings gender equality to the world's attention. We know that child marriage is driven by and drives gender inequality. This means that we have a crucial opportunity to ensure that child marriage is on the Beijing+25 agenda and, by doing so, to bring it to the attention of global leaders and decision makers. This will help to increase political commitment and resources to where they are most needed, in order to end the practice by 2030.

At the moment, the Beijing+25 agenda includes a wide range of different topics across the gender field. As a global partnership, we need to make sure that the rights and needs of adolescent girls are well represented within this agenda.

### How can your organisation get involved?

The *Girls Not Brides* global partnership has a vital role to play within the Beijing+25 platforms to ensure that the voices of married girls and girls at risk of child marriage are heard, and that their needs are met. There will be many different opportunities throughout 2020 and 2021 where we can make a difference by raising our voices together.

**Look out for communications from us on these opportunities and the key messages, so that we can join forces to help end child marriage, together.**