

NEWSLETTER - DECEMBER 2023

The Regional Action Forum to End Child Marriage in Arab States/MENA (RAF) is delighted to share its December 2023 newsletter covering end-of-year achievements and updates.



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16 DAYS OF ACTIVISM AGAINST GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

The global 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence that runs from 25 November to 10 December is a key international moment to call for an end to violence against women and girls, including child marriage.



Regional Action Forum to End Child Marriage in Arab States/MENA

25 November at 16:10 · 🌐

[#16DaysOfActivismAgainstGenderBasedViolence](#) starts today!

Join us in calling for an end to all forms of GBV, including [#childmarriage](#) in the [#MENA](#) and Arab states.

[#noexcuses](#) [#EndChildMarriage](#) [#16DaysOfActivism](#)



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In 2023, the [UNiTE campaign](#) theme is “Invest to Prevent Violence against Women & Girls” which calls on governments and key stakeholders worldwide to share how they are investing in gender-based violence prevention.

RAF joined the campaign by highlighting the need to invest in girls’ education, leadership and empowerment and steps to end violence against girls.



Regional Action Forum to End Child Marriage MEI @RAF_MENA · Dec 4 ...
 During #16DaysOfActivismAgainstGBV we're sharing powerful testimonies collected by our co-chairs @unfpa_asro. To learn more about child marriage in conflict settings, join us at our upcoming webinar on Dec 6: tinyurl.com/bdeeb2n #EndChildMarriage #thisisnotnormal #NoExcuses



RAF also highlighted key members' initiatives including UNFPA's #ThisIsNotNormal campaign that highlights the devastating impacts of child marriage and harmful practices such as female genital mutilation.

RAF WEBINAR

On December 6, RAF conducted its final webinar of the year entitled "Responding to child marriage in times of protracted conflict and humanitarian setting: programmatic gaps and opportunities."

The webinar aimed at fostering a comprehensive understanding and exchanging knowledge on how child marriage can be addressed and mitigated in conflict or crises-affected settings such as Lebanon, Yemen, Sudan and Palestine.

It featured speakers from Human Rights Watch, Women Alive Lebanon, Yemen Women Union and UNICEF Sudan who highlighted challenges, lessons learned and innovative approaches to addressing child marriage in times of heightened violence and instability.

[Click on the image below to watch the webinar recording.](#)



RESPONDING TO CHILD MARRIAGE IN TIMES OF PROTRACTED CONFLICT AND HUMANITARIAN SETTING: PROGRAMMATIC GAPS AND OPPORTUNITIES

SAVE THE DATE

Regional Action Forum to End Child Marriage in Arab States/MENA WEBINAR

FEATURED SPEAKERS

REGISTER NOW



6 December 2023



15:00 - 16:30 Amman time (GMT+3)



Heather Barr

Associate Director of the Women's Rights Division at Human Rights Watch



Osama Atiah

GBV & Communications Manager at Yemen Women Union



Tamador Ahmed Khalid

Child Protection Specialist & Gender Focal Point at UNICEF Sudan



Ghenwa Schinder

Co-founder & Director of Women Alive Lebanon



@RAF_MENA @RAF.ArabStates.MENA



As we wrap up 2023, RAF has also put together a thematic brief based on learnings stemming from engagement with members and colleagues in the humanitarian and academic fields this past year. The brief highlights key opportunities to address child marriage in the MENA region, including:

1. Investing in girls' leadership;
2. Including girls in climate action;
3. Developing and tailoring innovative approaches such as cash assistance for GBV and child marriage prevention; and
4. Prioritizing child marriage prevention in ongoing conflict and protracted crisis settings.

[Read the RAF thematic brief for 2023 here.](#)



We wish all RAF members a peaceful end to the year, hoping to see you all in 2024...

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