

حواتيڻي زيباش مسام قوانيڻي
Women living under muslim laws
النساء في ظل قوانين المسلمين
Femmes sous lois musulmanes

International Solidarity Network

15th December 2013

To the Office of the High Commissioner on Human Rights (OHCHR)

Women Human Rights and Gender Section

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Dear Sir or Madam:

On behalf of Women Living Under Muslim Laws International Solidarity Network, I am pleased to present to you this report, *Child, Early and Forced Marriage: A Multi-Country Study* in response to your call for submissions on child, early and forced marriage in accordance with Human Rights Council resolution A/HRC/RES/24/23 (2013).

In 2012, a two-part study on the state of forced marriage was undertaken by Women Living Under Muslim Laws (WLUML) for its program on culturally-justified violence against women, supported by the Women's Empowerment and Leadership Development for Democratisation (WELDD) consortium. This report is the documentation of that study and was subsequently revised as WLUML's submission to the Office on the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OCHCR) for its report on preventing and eliminating child, early and forced marriage.

In Chapter 1, we provide some background information on forced marriage, the gaps and shortcomings of existing literature, and a discussion on how this information is relevant to programmes aimed at eliminating this practice. Chapter 2 scopes existing literature on the existence of laws and/or practices in forced/early marriage in the contexts of the six countries where the WELDD program will be taking place, including: Afghanistan, Iran, Nigeria, Pakistan, Senegal and Sudan. Specific contexts, challenges, and opportunities are identified to inform our country-specific strategies.

We hope that this submission proves useful for your report. If you have any questions, concerns, or comments, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,



Mariem Omari

Deputy Director

Women Living Under Muslim Laws