



Cornell University

Avon Global Center for Women  
and Justice at Cornell Law School  
246 Myron Taylor Hall  
Ithaca, New York 14853  
p. 607-254-4768  
f. 607-255-7193  
www.womenandjustice.org

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Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights  
Women Human Rights and Gender Section  
Palais Des Nations  
CH-1211 Geneva 10  
Switzerland

**Re: Information on Child Marriage in Bangladesh for Consideration by the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights for its Report to the Human Rights Council at its 26<sup>th</sup> Session**

Dear Distinguished Members of the Women Human Rights and Gender Section:

We respectfully submit this letter and the attached documents in response to your invitation to civil society groups to present information on preventing and eliminating child, early and forced marriage.

The Avon Global Center for Women and Justice at Cornell Law School is committed to improving access to justice in an effort to eliminate violence against women and girls. In furtherance of this mission, we have conducted research on child marriage for Justice Imman Ali of the Supreme Court of Bangladesh to support his efforts to understand and address the problem in his country. Bangladesh has the third-highest rate of child marriage in the world with 68.7% of girls married before the age of 18. Its population is also among the world's most impoverished, and the two problems are closely related. Young brides are exposed to physical and sexual abuse, endure high-risk pregnancies, and are denied access to school or job training. Isolated and disenfranchised, they commonly lack the resources to educate their own children, perpetuating a cycle of poverty.

The following article and legal memoranda, which are enclosed in this submission, examine the effects of Bangladesh's national laws and policies on the issue:

- *Child Marriage in Bangladesh: A Harmful Traditional Practice*, lecture delivered by Justice Imman Ali at Cornell Law School on September 30, 2013
- *Child Marriage in Bangladesh: Causes, Consequences and Legal Framework*
- *Child Marriage in Bangladesh: Occurrences and Links to Sexual Harassment*
- *Child Marriage in Bangladesh: Birth and Marriage Registration*
- *Child Marriage in Bangladesh: Impact of Discriminatory Personal Laws*

We hope this information will be useful for your report to the Human Rights Council at its 26<sup>th</sup> Session. Thank you for your kind attention, and please do not hesitate to contact us if we can provide further information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Elizabeth Brundige'.

Elizabeth Brundige  
Executive Director, Avon Global Center for Women and Justice  
Visiting Assistant Clinical Professor of Law  
Cornell Law School