

King'sMUN

UN Women



Julia Pearson
February 22, 2025

Welcome Letter

Dear King'sMUN 2025 delegates,

As this year's Co-Secretary Generals of King'sMUN, we are truly honoured to welcome you to our 11th annual conference. The Secretariat has been working hard throughout this school year to deliver you an incredible, in-person conference with various unique committees, experienced chairs, and a successful day of debate.

Model United Nations, a reenactment of the function of the United Nations, is designed for students to come together to debate, discuss, and develop creative resolutions to various pressing issues that plague our current world. In most committees, students take on the positions of multiple countries, characters, or political figures to create solutions for real and fictional issues and crises. We provide distinctive committees that delve into historical events, future scenarios, and fictional topics.

In our personal experience with MUN, we have developed many valuable skills that we will take with us throughout our lives, such as confidence in public speaking, leadership, and creative problem-solving. Furthermore, MUN promotes lifelong connections, as we meet delegates who share similar passions in committee sessions. We genuinely believe that your participation in MUN will guide you throughout your high school journey and beyond.

At King'sMUN, we provide a variety of committees to ensure that we have something of interest for everyone. From very current pressing issues (i.e. UNSC and the ICJ) and issues in sports (i.e. English Premier League and International Olympic Committee) to fictional committees, yet applicable issues (i.e. Pokémon) and issues set in our very own communities (i.e. Government of Ontario). We strive to ensure that there is appeal for a variety of delegates. Whether you have no experience or have attended many conferences, there is a place at King'sMUN for you!

Once again, we are thrilled to welcome all delegates, new or returning, back to King's MUN. We hope you will engage in fruitful debate and have a fantastic time at King'sMUN 2025.

Sincerely,

Aryan Suri and Luciana Ilic

Co-Secretary Generals

King'sMUN 2025

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Purpose Of the UN Women

The UN Women committee of the UN was created to promote gender equality, women's empowerment, and accelerate the process of meeting the needs of women and girls worldwide. The overall purpose is to create an environment where women and girls can exercise their human rights and live up to their full potential. These are their primary goals as an organization: to ensure that all women and girls live lives free of violence.

Within the UN, they must support intergovernmental bodies such as the composition of the states of women and their policies, standards and norms. This organization works to make the vision of Sustainable Development Goals a reality for all girls and women worldwide. It is instrumental in getting women equal participation in every way of life. The four strategic priorities are: ensuring women lead and participate equally in governance systems; enabling women to secure income, access decent work, and achieve economic autonomy; ensuring all women and girls are free from violence; and empowering women and girls to contribute to and have greater influence in building sustainable peace and resilience, while benefiting equally from efforts to prevent natural disasters and conflicts through humanitarian action.

The UN Women work to coordinate and promote the UN systems operating to advance gender equality and deliberation and agreements linked to the 2030 agenda, working towards a more inclusive world and achieving sustainable development goals.

This organization ensures that all women and girls are respected and treated with integrity and professionalism regardless of their culture. These values represent the key principles for collectively operating the UN Women.

Background

UN Women was created in 2010. In the lead-up to this organization, there were many other steps regarding women worldwide and how to ensure their rights were met. Global Capital for Gender Equality was founded in 1946. For the first time, the status of women was mentioned as "the dignity of the human person and the equal rights of men and women." Of the members that signed this document, four of the 160 were women. Until 1962, the commission worked on drafting the Universal Declaration of Human Rights to include women. One of the big focuses was to provide women universal access to political rights and to remove discrimination in marriage. During this time, they also worked on women's literacy and female access to

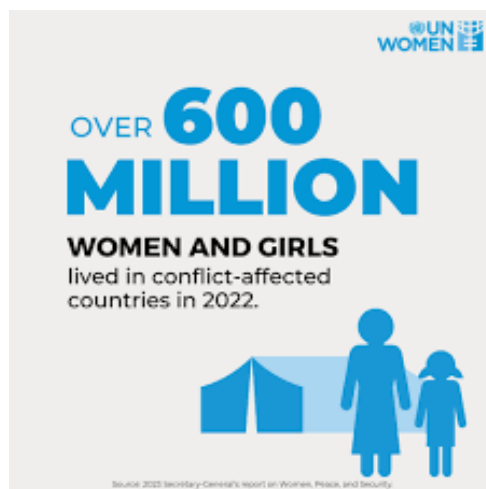
education. In 1964, the General Assembly drafted a Declaration on Eliminating Discrimination Against Women. In 1975, International Women's Year was intended to remind the international community that discrimination against women in terms of law and deeply rooted in central beliefs worldwide made governments increase equality between men and women. In 1999, the optional protocol to the convention introduced the right of petition for women victims of discrimination.

In 2010, four parts of the UN system came together to create the UN Women.

The Issues at hand

1. Violence against Women in Conflict Zones (i.e. Congo, Afghanistan, Eritrea)

Ending violence against women: One in three women worldwide experiences physical and sexual acts of violence. This is a human rights violation and results in immediate and long-term physical and mental trauma that is lifelong and irreversible. Violence negatively affects women's overall wellness but also frequently prevents them from participating in society. It costs society in the way of increasing healthcare costs and reducing productivity. Much of the violence that



targets women occurs online. Outbreaks of violence have become a primary target for groups that use terror as a tactic of war. Women suffer much more than men when it comes to gender-based acts of violence. Their bodies become targets on the battlegrounds over which opposing forces struggle. Women are raped to humiliate the men they are related to, who are often forced to watch the assault. In societies where there is a history of ethnic conflict, male enemies rape women, who are forced to bear children. Indeed, rape is used as a weapon

of war. Women have been raped and tortured as a way of interrogation in various conflict zones. In these contexts, no woman is exempt from violence and exploitation.

The Democratic Republic of the Congo

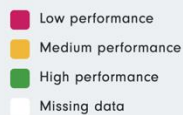
The DRC is Africa's second-largest country, with a total population of 67.8 million. 51% of women and 48% of the population are below 15 years old. DRC is one of the



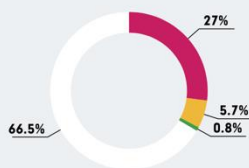
poorest countries in the world, classified 186th out of 187 countries on the Human Development

Gender data gaps and country performance

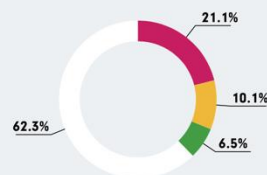
For this score, we use the 72 gender-specific SDG indicators in the Women Count Data Hub's SDG Dashboard for the 193 UN Member States. For each indicator, we calculate the 33rd and 66th percentiles of the distribution and, based on those two values, countries are classified as belonging to high performance, medium performance and low performance categories. For more details, see the [methodological note](#) and the article "[We now have more gender-related SDG data than ever, but is it enough?](#)"



Country score - Democratic Republic of the Congo



Average region score - Africa



Index (UNDP, 2010) and over 70% of the population lives below the poverty line.

There have been decades of armed conflict leading to the deaths of over 2 million people, and estimates suggest over 1 million women have been raped. Fifty-two percent of women in DRC are survivors of domestic violence, and 39% of Congolese women report having been threatened or injured.

There has been some progress on women's rights, but in the Democratic Republic of Congo, the adolescent birth rate is 3.4 per 1,000 women aged 15-19 as of 2016, down from 3.85 per 1,000 in 2015. Evidently,

Congo still has work to do to achieve gender equality. Twenty-nine percent of women aged 20-

24 were married or in a union before age 18. In February of 2024, only 12.8% of seats in parliament were held by women. In 2018, 35.6% of women aged 15-49 years reported that they

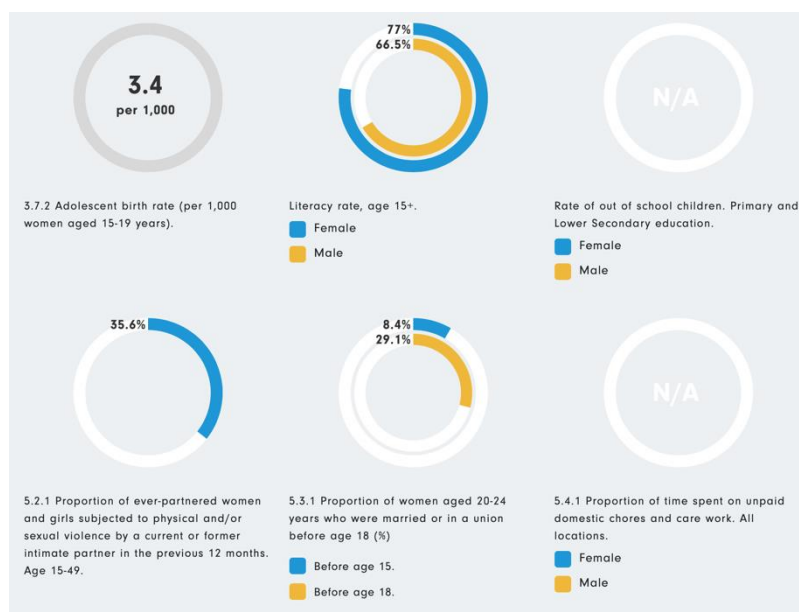
had been subject to physical and sexual violence by a current or former intimate partner in the previous 12 months. Women of reproductive age between 15-49 often face barriers concerning their sexual and reproductive health and rights. In 2017, 33% of women who needed family

Social

Social protection, poverty and freedom from violence, stigma & stereotypes



planning were satisfied with modern methods. 33.5% of indicators required to monitor the SDGs from a gender perspective were available, with many omissions in key areas. Data was missing



on unpaid care and domestic work, communication technology skills, and many areas such as gender and poverty, physical and sexual harassment, women’s access to assets, including land and gender and the environment. There is a lack of comparable methodologies for regular monitoring and closing these gender data gaps essential for achieving gender-related

SDG commitments in the Democratic Republic of Congo. One question that should be considered is, “We now have more gender-related SDG data than ever, but is it enough?”

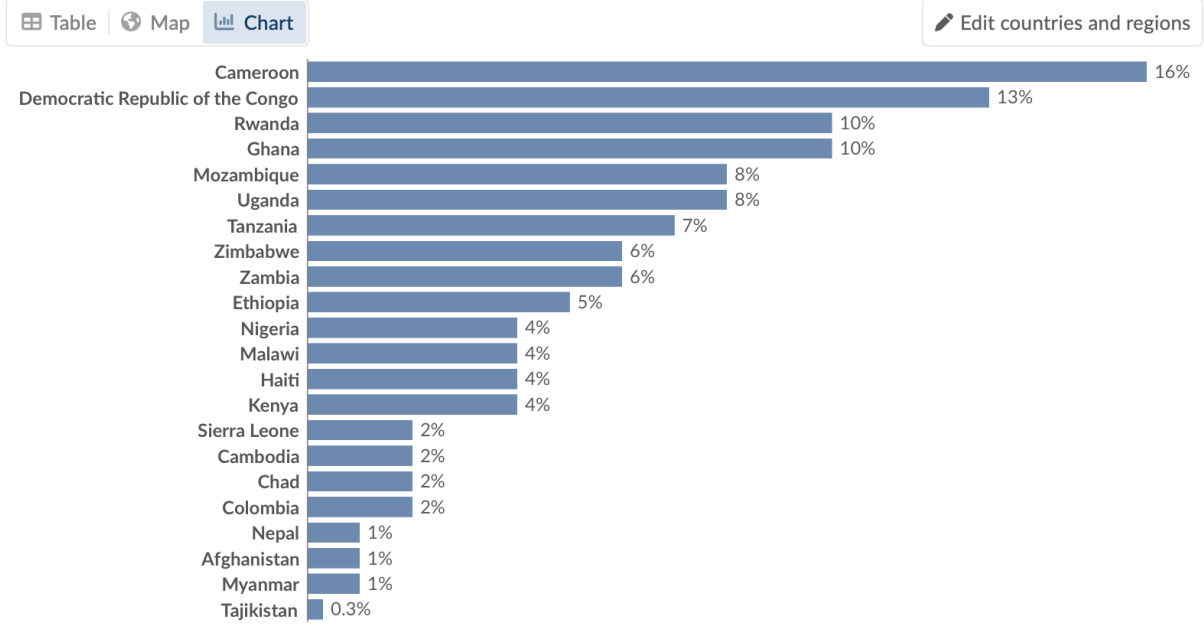
Decades of conflict resulting in humanitarian emergencies have already exhausted and traumatized millions. In the last few months alone, more than 700,000 people have been forced to flee their homes, bringing the total number of displaced people to an all-time high of 7.2 million. There has been a high increase in cases related to gender-based violence rising between 2022 and 2023. Stigma and the fear of retaliation prevent many survivors from coming forward. In addition to sexual violence, children are also at risk of other threats, including abduction, murder, and maiming recruitment by armed groups

To see this data from its source, click here—<https://data.unwomen.org/country/democratic-republic-of-the>

Share of women who report having been victims of forced sex as children



Women aged 18 to 29 who report having experienced forced sex before the age of 18. Estimates come from surveys in the period 2005–2016.



Data source: Sexual Violence - UNICEF Global Databases (2017) - [Learn more about this data](#)

Note: Forced sex includes sexual intercourse or any other sexual acts that were forced, physically or in any other way.

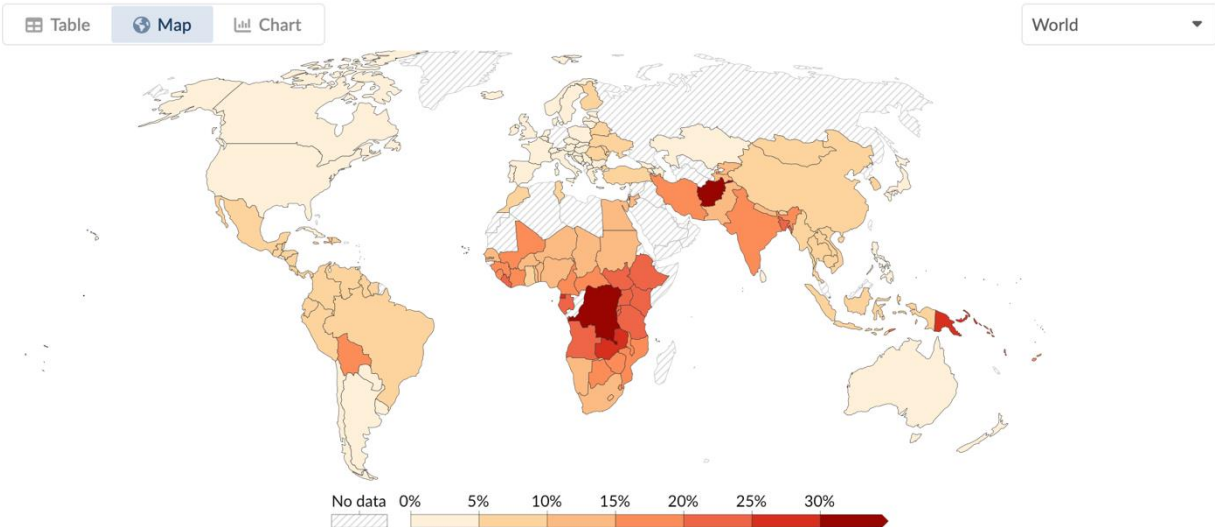
OurWorldinData.org/violence-against-rights-for-children | CC BY



Share of women who experienced violence from an intimate partner, 2018



Ever-partnered women aged over 15 years who have been subject to physical or sexual violence by a current or former intimate partner in the last 12 months. An ever-partnered woman is a woman who has had an intimate partner at any time in their life.



Data source: Data from multiple sources compiled by the UN - [Learn more about this data](#)

OurWorldinData.org/women-rights | CC BY

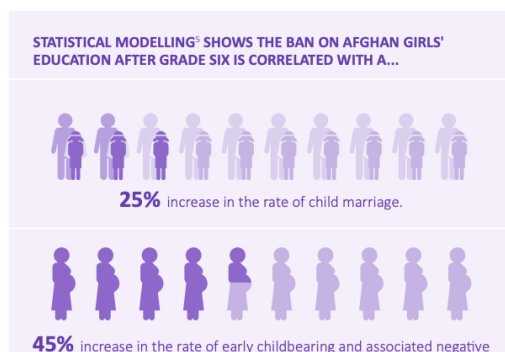
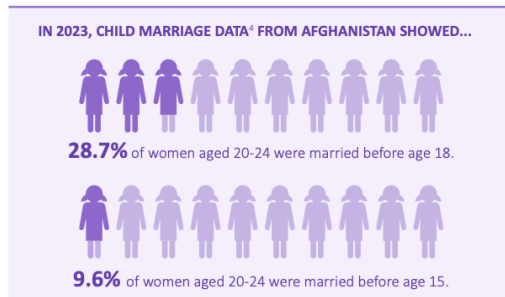
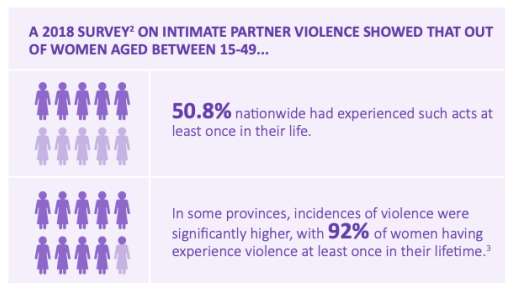


Afghanistan

Women in Afghanistan experience a high level of violence, worsened by more than four decades of civil conflict. One primary concern is domestic violence, such as honour killings. An honour killing is the murder of a female family member justified through blaming the woman for bringing shame upon the family. There is an estimated 5000 honour killings in Afghanistan every year. Women are also more likely to experience physical abuse by their mothers-in-law in support of the husband, escalating the violence experienced by women in their own households.



I. Gender-based violence



Since the Taliban's take-over in 2021, there has been a series of decrees and guidelines that violate the human rights of women and girls, including the right to freedom of movement. Women are not allowed to move around in public spaces unless they are in the company of a male relative, known as a Mahram. In general, they are only allowed to leave the house for urgent matters and must wear full Burkas in public. Women who defy the dress code put their male relatives at risk for imprisonment. Women also have no protection when threatened by violence. There are no reporting mechanisms in place for survivors of sexual violence. The nation's vast system for women's rights has collapsed. Safe houses, offering protection and advice, have been closed, and now much of this work has gone undercover. Since 2009, only 22 cases of maltreatment of women have been brought under the law on the elimination (data from UN Women) of violence against women, but this no

longer has any validity. The Ministry of Women Affairs has been abolished when the Taliban

swept through the country in 2021. They systematically released prisoners, many of whom had been locked up for committing gender-based acts of violence.

Since August of 2021, every woman's rights have been compromised, including their social and political status. These beliefs are fed by decades of conflict, and their interpretation of Islamic religion falls heaviest on the women. Afghanistan remains the only country that bans women from going to school beyond the sixth grade. Women are restricted from working outside their homes except for a few sectors and particular roles (i.e. health care). There are no laws against acts of violence against women. There was a point in history where women could run for parliament, but now they can't even run to the park.

Before the Taliban, it was not perfect for women, but it was much better than it is now.

IV. Equal participation and leadership



Eritrea

Eritrea has significant issues with acts of violence against girls at the hands of both private individuals and state officials. Eritrea has ratified most international human rights treaties protecting girls from discrimination and violence. However, many will still experience acts of violence in many forms, including physical, sexual, psychological, and economic violence. Psychological violence is also an issue, including comprised of verbal abuse, defamation, coercion, gaslighting, and harassment that causes mental and emotional harm. And, economic violence happens when a partner engages in activities that will cause them financial damage. This can also include limiting access to financial resources, damaging property, and refusing to pay for education and health.



Connection to SDGs

Looking at acts of violence against women in conflict areas clearly connects to the SDG 5: Gender Equality. There are also connections to SDG 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth and SDG 10: Reducing Inequalities.



Gender equality

5.2 eliminate all forms of violence against all women and girls in the public and private spheres, including trafficking and sexual and other types of exploitation.

5.6 ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health rights as agreed in accordance with the programme of action of the International

Conference on Population and Development, the Beijing platform for action, and the outcome documents of their review conferences.



Reduced inequalities

10.4 adopt policies, especially fiscal, wage and social protection policies, and progressively achieve greater equality.

Peace, justice and strong institutions

16.1 significantly reduces all forms of violence and related death rates everywhere



Looking at the goals, gender equality will help to support women in stopping the violence against them and allow women to be more in control when it comes to their everyday lives. Reducing inequality is a large part of creating a safe world for women, giving them equal chances and not being used to bring about violence.

Questions

1. Why do women suffer the most for the choices and actions of men?
2. If women have higher literacy rates than men, why are women not allowed to go to school in some cases?
3. Will getting these countries above the poverty line end the violence against women?
4. What can countries in the rest of the world do to assist these women? (What can we do?)

Conclusion

The violence against women in conflict zones is evidently worsening. Women's rights are compromised, but they are unable to speak up for themselves and be heard because no one is going to listen. As these patterns continue, more women are being raped every day as a result of violence. Every day, women are being denied education and told not to leave their homes. Thus, It is vital for UN Women to put an end to this and work towards building a safe and sustainable future for women worldwide.

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[congo#:~:text=As%20of%20February%202024%2C%20only,in%20the%20previous%2012%20months.](https://data.unwomen.org/country/democratic-republic-of-the-congo#:~:text=As%20of%20February%202024%2C%20only,in%20the%20previous%2012%20months.)

2. Eliminating Harmful Practices (Early Childhood & Forced Marriage, FGM)

Early childhood

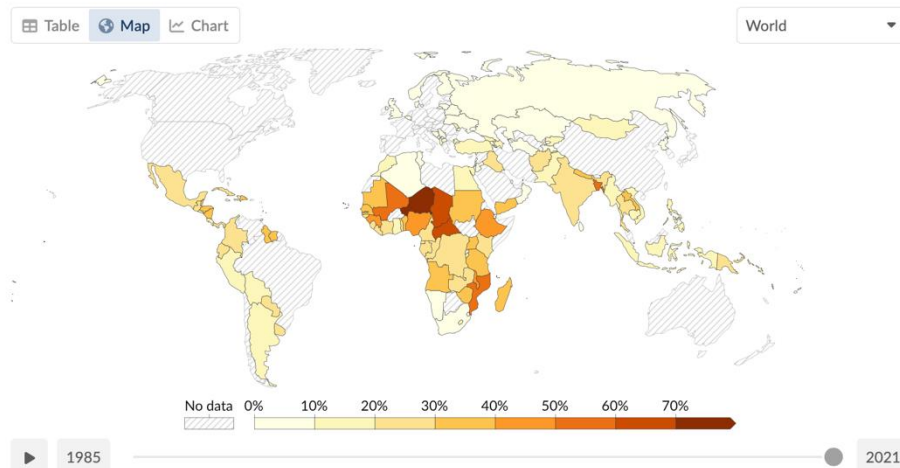
Eliminating harmful practices: When child marriage and female genital mutilation (FGM) are happening to girls, these are harmful practices robbing them of their childhoods. These girls lose any chance of creating a future for themselves; they do not have any opportunity to make a place for themselves in society. Child abuse can be linked to faith and beliefs damaging a child's mental state and outlook on life.

Forced marriage

Forced marriage to women and children is a significant violation of human rights and a harmful practice that will affect women and girls globally, preventing them from living their lives free from all violence. This threatens the lives and futures of girls and women around the world, taking away their ability to make decisions about their lives. It disrupts education, making them more vulnerable to violence, discrimination

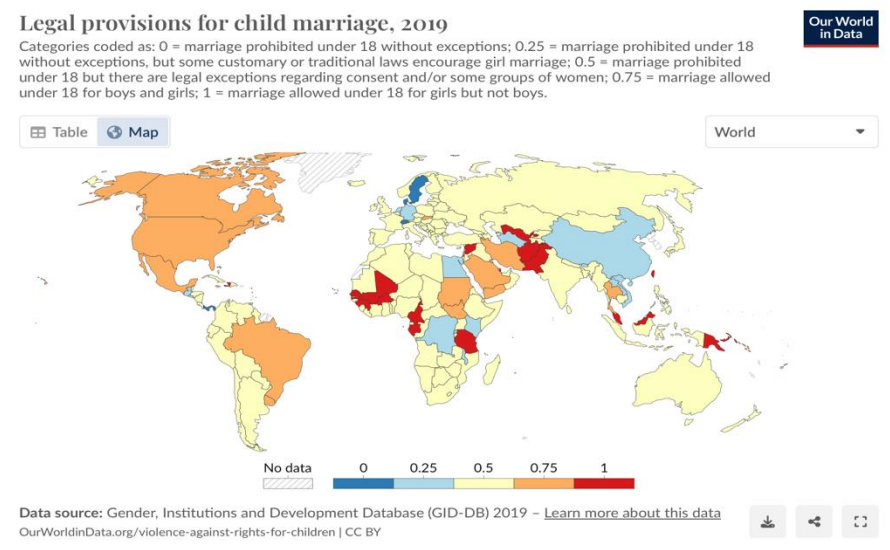
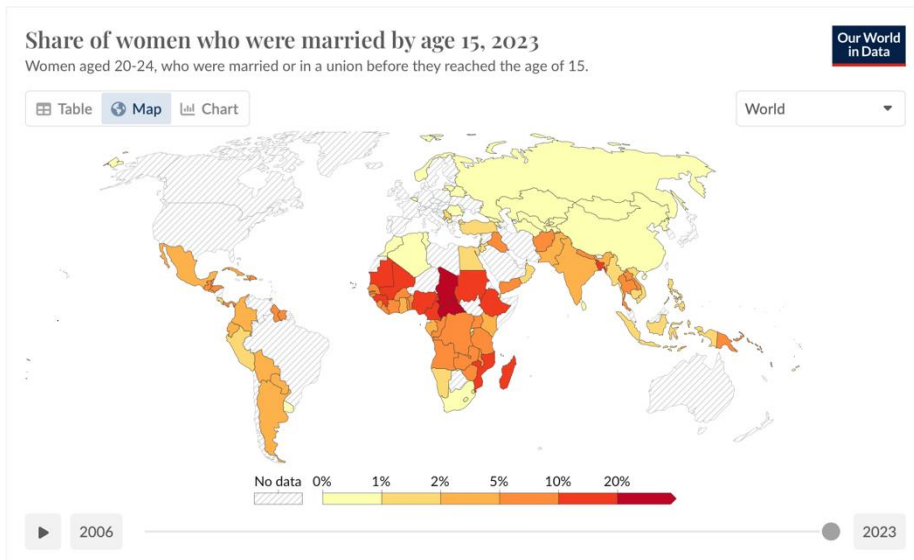


Share of women who were married by age 18, 2021
Women aged 20-24, who were married or in a union before they reached the age of 18.



and abuse; this will also affect their full potential when it comes to participation in the economy and political and social atmosphere.

Child marriage will then come early in pregnancy and childbirth, resulting in higher-than-average maternal morbidity and



mortality rates. Forced marriage can also lead to women and girls fleeing the country to escape the situation. Six hundred fifty million women still alive today were married as children. Twelve million girls every year are forced to marry before they turn 18. Twenty-eight girls every minute, one in every five girls is married or in union before reaching age 18. In less developed countries, that number doubles: 40% of girls before 18 and 12% of girls before 15 years. Child marriage is a result of inequality; it is robbing girls of their childhood

while also threatening their well-being. Women who marry before the age of 18 have a higher risk of experiencing domestic violence and are less likely to remain in school. These girls will struggle with health and economic outcomes, which will then get passed down to their children and affect them. Girls who undergo child marriage are more likely to get pregnant during adolescence, which will lead to higher risks and complications during pregnancy and childbirth. Child marriage will also take an extreme toll on a child's mental health as they are taken away from their familiar surroundings, including friends and family. This practice of child marriage goes back through different countries and cultures, plus places of poverty lack educational opportunities and limited access to health care. Sometimes, families will marry off their daughters to reduce their economic burden or earn income.

Female genital mutilation

FGM is the cutting or removal of some or all the female genitalia for non-medical reasons. This is a violation of human rights. Doing this will only cause harm. The reasons for this practice are purely social acceptance, religion, misconceptions about hygiene and a means of making the girl more “marriageable.” There are no health benefits to having this done. There are many immediate complications and even more long-term ones. This harmful practice is typically carried out on young girls between infancy and adolescence; it is occasionally done on adult women. Having this done can make sex very painful. It will also reduce sexual desires and the lack of pleasurable sensations. Going through FGM and then wanting to get pregnant can cause lots of complications in childbirth. Going through this will affect mental health in the long run with experiencing emotional trauma. Women are put through these painful practices for cultural beliefs, with the mistake of thinking it will benefit girls in some way. This will typically happen if the extended generations of women in the family have gone through it. Two hundred million girls and women alive today have gone through FGM.

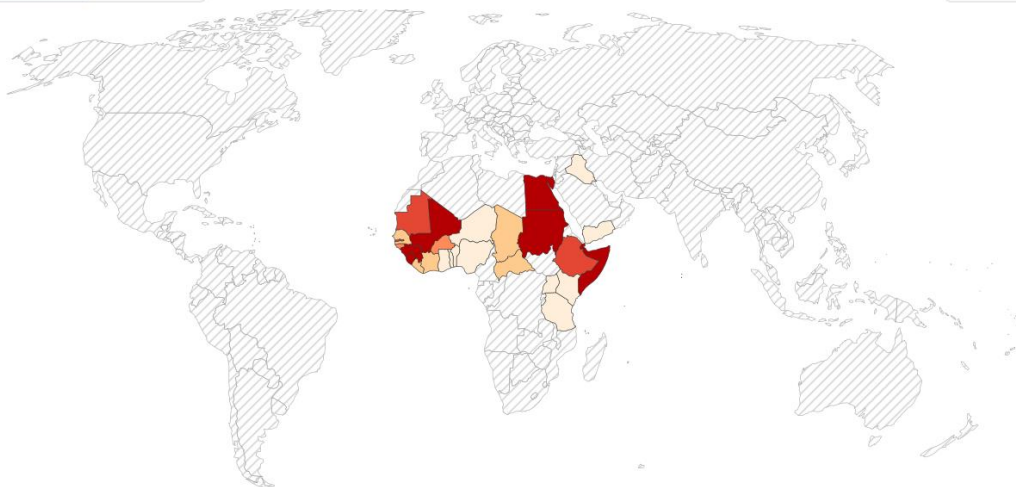
Prevalence of female genital mutilation, 2022

Our World
in Data

Share of women, aged 15–49, who have gone through partial or total removal of the female external genitalia or other injury to the female genital organs for cultural or other non-therapeutic reasons.

Table Map Chart

World



No data 0% 20% 40% 60% 80% 100%



1990

2022

Connection to SDGs

These SDGs connect explicitly to the issue at hand, limiting harmful practices. Peace, justice and strong institutions go hand in hand with the work that needs to be done to change the justice system and allow women to decide their future and not be so traumatized as children from being tortured. Good health and well-being will help ensure that girls and women are given the right to oversee what operations happen to their bodies. Gender equality is precisely what needs to be done to give women their rights back and take back control.



Peace, justice and strong institutions

16.2 end abuse, exploitation, trafficking, and all forms of violence against and torture of children.



Good health and well being

3.8 Achieve universal health coverage, including financial risk protection, access to quality essential health care services, and safe, adequate, quality, and affordable essential medicines and vaccines.



Gender equality

5.3 limits all harmful practices such as child-early forced marriage and female genital mutilation.

Question

1. Can the SDG 5.3 goal happen before 2030?
2. Will FGM be stopped if it has been going on for this many generations?
3. Does the trauma that these girls go through today with child marriage and early childhood create psychological conflict for future generations?
4. Would this practice change if women were in power and able to make decisions in these countries?

Conclusion

These harmful practices that women and girls must tolerate on a day-to-day basis in some countries are wrong. Having those practices as part of religious beliefs worsens what is happening because it is a part of their history. Working towards gender equality as an SDG can better society by working towards putting an end to harmful practices,

UN Women Partnering with the government, UN agencies, civil society organizations and other institutions to find ways to prevent violence against women and girls. Working towards early education, respectful relationships, and changing the attitude of young boys is necessary to alter the stereotypes. Prevention is the most cost-effective, long-term way to stop violence. These practices occur because of gender roles and social norms. These practices are often associated with severe forms of violence.

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