**WHAT IS CHILD MARRIAGE?**
The United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) defines it as “a formal marriage or informal union before 18.” (2011)
The Inter-African Committee (IAC) defines child marriage as, “any marriage carried out below the age of 18 years, before the girl is physically, physiologically, and psychologically ready to shoulder the responsibilities of marriage.” (1993)

**CALL FOR ACTION**
**INCREASE THE MINIMUM AGE OF MARRIAGE TO 18 WITHOUT EXCEPTIONS**
We urge the government to follow the steps set out by other Muslim countries such as Egypt, Algeria and Morocco to increase the minimum age of marriage to 18.

**REFORM LEGISLATION TO PROTECT RAPE VICTIMS**
We urge the government to legislate a law that would protect and prevent rape victims from marrying their perpetrator as was recently done by Lebanon, Jordan and Tunisia.

**CREATE STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES FOR SYARI’AH JUDGES**
Currently, there is no existing SOP for application of underage marriage. We urge for a strict compliance of a rigorous SOP for all Syariah judges.

**SEX EDUCATION**
Extensive sex education should be taught to children including about safe sex, dangers of Sexually Transmitted Disease, and impact of teenage pregnancies towards young mothers.

**RAISE AWARENESS**
Parents and teachers should be aware that child marriage is harmful to children. Be more critical against the practice and emphasise on education than marriage.

**TELENISA**
SIS provides free legal advisory service to all on their legal rights under the Islamic Family Law and the Syari’ah Criminal Offences Law.

**SUPPORT & HELP**
Our legal clinic operates every Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays from 10:00am to 5:00pm (except for public holidays).
**IMPACT OF CHILD MARRIAGE**

**CASES OF CHILD MARRIAGE**

In 2012, 12 years old Nor Azira and 19 years old Ahmad Ilyas married in Kedah after the girl's father agreed to the union. The father was quoted as saying "It is better for them to get married, rather than doing something that is improper". Nevertheless, the marriage did not last.

In 2014, 17 years old Nor Izzah married her 15 years old boyfriend Mohd Abdul after two months falling in love. Izzah had just completed her SPM (High School Certificate) and Abdul was waiting his PT 3 exam result (Lower Secondary Evaluation). Abdul did not intend to further his education after getting married.

**DIFFICULTY IN CONTINUING EDUCATION AND OBTAINING EMPLOYMENT**

A child that has married at an early age statistically has a lower opportunity to continue with higher education.

**HEALTH PROBLEMS DUE TO EARLY PREGNANCIES**

Based on the World Health Organization (WHO), complications during pregnancy and birth is the second cause of death for teenagers aged between 15-19 globally.

**HIGHER RATES OF SEXUAL AND PHYSICAL ABUSE**

In 2004, International Center for Research on Women (ICRW) revealed that girls married before 18 were twice as likely to be at risk of domestic violence. Younger brides have limited access and resources to seek necessary help.