

## 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)

## LAWS THAT ALLOW CHILD MARRIAGE

### MUSLIMS

#### ISLAMIC FAMILY LAW (FEDERAL TERRITORY) ACT 1984

Section 8 provides that boys under 18 and girls under 16 can get married with the consent of Syariah judges.

### NON-MUSLIMS

#### LAW REFORM (MARRIAGE AND DIVORCE) ACT 1976

Section 10 & 12, Non-Muslims can only marry if they are aged at least 18. They need parental consent for marriage below 21.

#### EXCEPTIONS

A girl aged 16 can get married if the State Chief Minister/Menteri Besar gives authorisation.

## CALL FOR ACTION



LAW REFORM

### 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 dan Tunisia.

### CREATE STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES FOR SYARIAH 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.



EDUCATION & AWARENESS

### 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.



SUPPORT & HELP

### 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.

☎ 03 – 7960 8802    🔔 Call For Appointment

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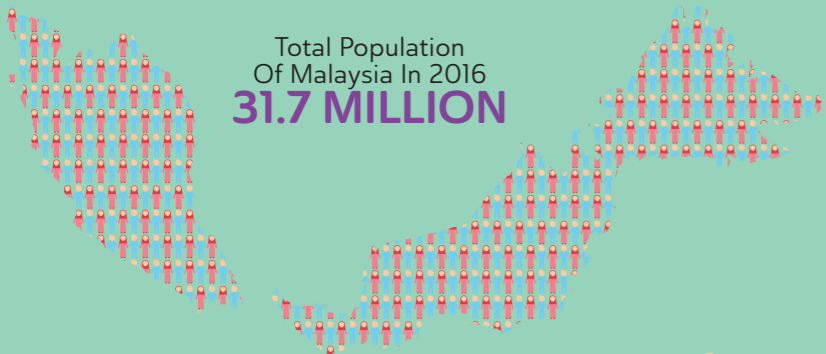
Our legal clinic operates every **Tuesdays, Wednesdays** and **Thursdays** from **10:00am to 5:00pm** (except for public holidays).

# CHILD MARRIAGE

## WHAT WE NEED TO KNOW



Empowering Voices for Change



**15-64 YEARS OLD**  
Comprise **69.5%** Of The Population

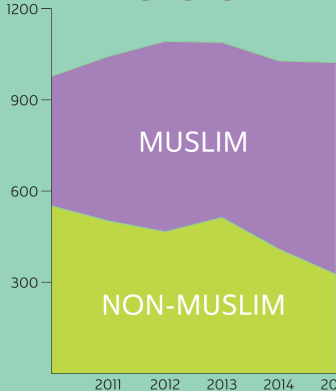
**0-14 YEARS OLD**  
Makes **24.5%** Of The Population

Estimated That A Total Of **11,400 CHILDREN** Below The Age Of 15 Were Married

**4,600**  
**6,800**

\*2000 Population & Housing Census

### Number Of CHILD MARRIAGE CASES



**10,240**  
Number Of Applications For Muslim Child Marriage Between The Year 2005-2015

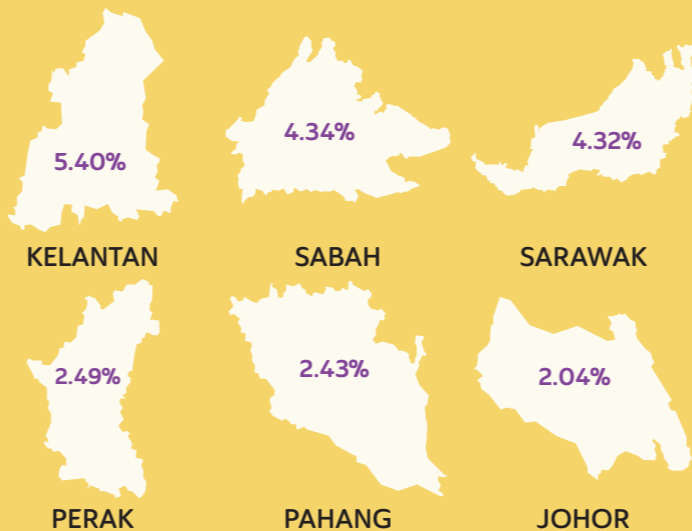


Average Annual Applications For Muslim Child Marriage Recorded By The Department Of Syariah Judiciary

2005	849	2011	1,029
2010		2015	

\*Ministry of Women Family and Community Development

## CHILD MARRIAGE RECORDED BASED ON STATES



\*2011, Department of Statistics Malaysia

## CASES OF CHILD MARRIAGE

2012

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.

2014

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.

\*Given pseudo names

## IMPACT OF CHILD MARRIAGE



EDUCATION

### 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.



HEALTHCARE

### 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**.



DOMESTIC VIOLENCE