



NEWS RELEASE

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Canada launches campaign to end child marriage

Kuala Lumpur – Child, early and forced marriage (CEFM) is a widespread, harmful practice that threatens the lives and futures of girls and women around the world. This is the key message at the launch of *Girls' Voices: Speaking Up Against Child Marriage*, a photo exhibition presented by the Government of Canada and *Girls Not Brides*.

With an estimated 15 million girls worldwide married before their 18th birthday, the practice undermines the development of their families, communities and countries. However, there is cause for optimism as the international momentum to end child marriage is growing. Leaders, communities, regional organisations, and girls themselves are speaking up and taking action to end child marriage.

“Canada is proud to help build international momentum to end child, early and forced marriage. This includes Canada’s leadership on the creation of the International Day of the Girl, developing substantive resolutions at the United Nations, and investing RM214 million (CAD\$70 million) in programming support to Canadian and civil society partners worldwide”, Her Excellency Judith St. George, High Commissioner for Canada in Malaysia said at the launch of the exhibition in Berjaya Times Square.

“And we are very grateful for the support of YB Dato’ Sri Rohani Abdul Karim, Minister of Women, Family and Community Development in raising awareness of the campaign.”

“In my Ministry, we stand guided by the principle of Developing the Full Potential of the Child. Full potential consist of the educational, health and social perspectives. Let us pledge to protect our children from all harmful practices, including child marriage!” said YB Dato’ Sri Rohani Abdul Karim.

The exhibition runs daily from February 25-28, 2016, 10:00 am – 10:00 pm at Berjaya Times Square Kuala Lumpur (Lower Ground Concourse) and is open to the public.

Associated links

[Girls Not Brides](#) is a global partnership of over 550 civil society organisations in more than 70 countries, committed to ending child marriage.

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