

**Question for written answer E-007018/2016
to the Commission (Vice-President / High Representative)**
Rule 130
Barbara Matera (PPE)

Subject: VP/HR - Child Marriages in Nepal

According to Human Rights Watch, there is a very big problem in Nepal of girls being married off at a young age. 37 % of these girls are married before the age of 18, and are often pressured into having children soon after that. Agents of the Nepalese Government are not doing enough to bring an end to this situation, and there is little to no sex education for these young girls. Even though childhood marriages have been illegal since 1963, cases are rarely reported or investigated by the authorities.

Girls who are forced into marriage rarely receive an education afterwards and are expected to fill the role of homemaker and wife. Girls can be forced to marry owing to family poverty or because they cannot afford to send them to school anymore. Most marriage awareness programs are done by NGO's or other organisations because the Nepalese Government rarely makes any effort to end these marriages. Plans have been made between NGOs and the Nepalese Government to end child marriages by 2030, although that even seems too far from now.

1. What steps can be taken to ensure that the local governments recognise and combat the phenomenon of child marriage in Nepal?
2. How can the EU speed up the process for ending these marriages before 2030?