

**Question for written answer E-006037/2013
to the Commission**

Rule 117

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Subject: Child marriage and girls' education

Secondary education (minimum of nine years of schooling) for girls is not only a human right, it is also one of the key drivers of development. Child marriage, and gender-based violence in and around schools, are two of the key barriers to girls accessing and completing such education. With its European Consensus on Development, the EU has made a commitment to pay particular attention to promoting girls' education and safety at school.

1. In this light, what actions are being and will be taken by the Commission to ensure that girls' education has a central place in EU development cooperation? Specifically, what actions are being and will be taken to end child marriage and gender-based violence in and around schools? What actions are being and will be taken to address the harmful gender norms that are one of the causes underlying child marriage and gender-based violence?

There is strong agreement among development actors that international focus on access to education should be broadened to include completion of studies and the quality of the education received. Quality education for girls would mean education that is: (i) relevant to their needs, rights and aspirations; (ii) delivered in a learning environment that is safe, secure and girl-friendly; and (iii) implemented through teaching methods and curricula, and complemented by school governance, that is free from gender bias and that promotes gender equality.

2. What actions are being and will be taken by the Commission to ensure the availability of, access to and completion by girls of a minimum of nine years of quality education (primary and lower secondary) that meet these criteria?