

**Question for written answer E-001729/2023/rev.1  
to the Commission**

Rule 138

**Loucas Furlas (PPE)**

Subject: Child marriage

According to official data, every year more than 10 million girls under the age of 15 are married or forced to marry men who are twice their age or much older.

At the same time, it is estimated that 115 million boys and men around the world married as children, a fifth of them before the age of 15.

This practice is a flagrant abuse of human rights and can have manifold traumatic consequences for the lives of children, especially girls.

There are still states in the US and dozens of countries around the world where there is no official minimum age for marriage. Thus, children marry with their parents' consent and these marriages are considered entirely legitimate.

The reasons for child marriage include poverty, the bride's honour, the dowry, cultural traditions, laws, religious and social pressures, local customs, fear of someone remaining celibate, illiteracy and women being unable to earn their own living.

In view of this:

1. How could the Commission assist in protecting underage children?
2. Underage children subjected to this practice are left psychologically scarred for life. What further measures could the Commission take to protect underage children and what is being done to put an end to this practice?

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