

Focus: Why does child marriage happen?

Objectives

1. Identify the factors that lead to child marriage and the consequences for the individual and society.
2. Devise and debate actions designed to reduce childhood marriage.

Starter: Draw the table into your books

- You are going to watch three short films that will offer some background on child marriage and its impact.
1. Draw the table below with a pencil and a ruler
 2. Make sure you are familiar with the key terms and context on the next slide before watching the films.

What are the causes of child marriage?	What are the negative impacts of child marriage?

Context

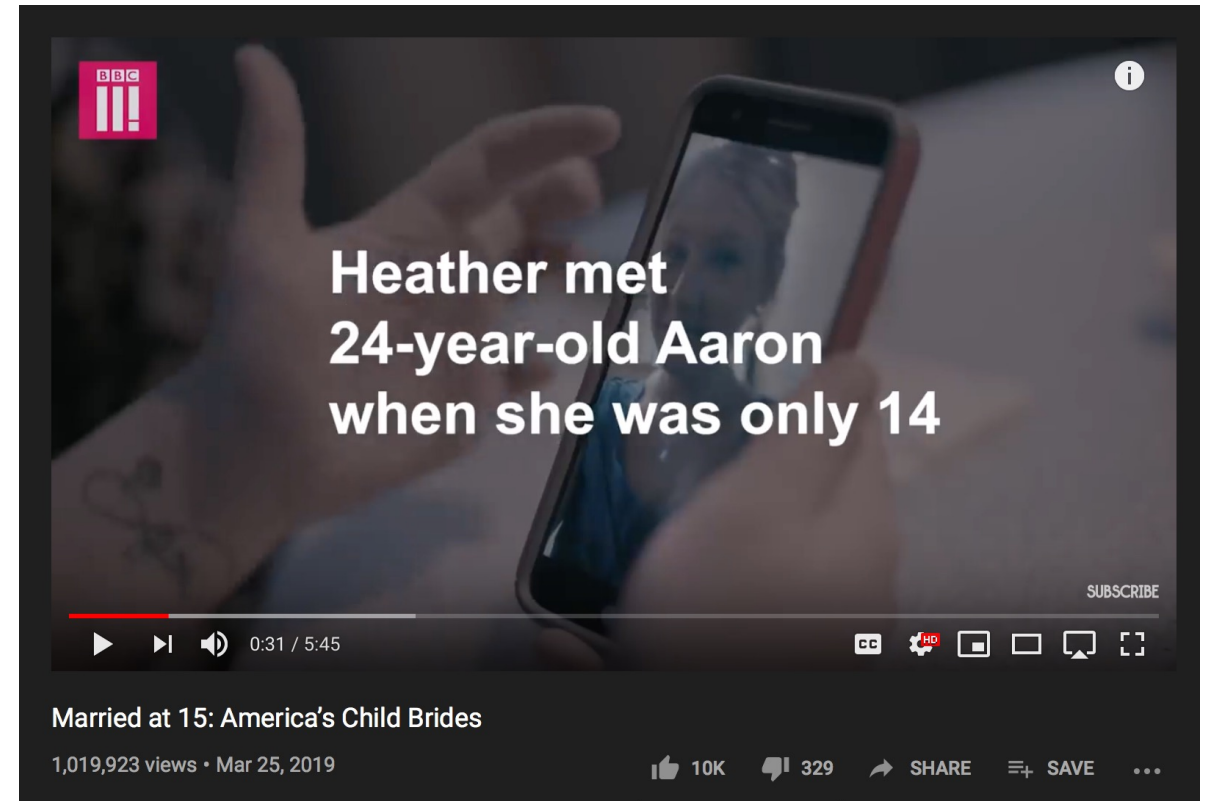
Whilst the film explores underage marriage in Iraq, we should remember that it is a **small minority of girls**. It's important that **we challenge this practice and raise awareness** of it but also **ensure that we don't stereotype** or negatively label an entire country and its' people as well as the religion that many follow.

Key Terms:

- **State institutions:** departments run or administered by the government, e.g. police, education system, courts
- **Tribal traditions:** Actions carried out by people associated with a tribe, often because they have always been carried out that way. Tribes can each have their own interpretation of religious beliefs.
- **Activist:** A person who seeks change and wants to raise awareness about an issue they feel needs addressing.
- **Sunni & Shia:** two different denominations of Islam whose followers may practise their faith in different ways.

Causes and impacts of child marriage

Watch the clip to develop your table further by looking at the causes and impact of this case



The image shows a YouTube video player interface. The video title is "Married at 15: America's Child Brides". The video description is "Heather met 24-year-old Aaron when she was only 14". The video has 1,019,923 views and was uploaded on Mar 25, 2019. The video player shows a progress bar at 0:31 / 5:45. The video content shows a person holding a smartphone displaying a photo of a young girl. The BBC logo is visible in the top left corner of the video player.

Heather met 24-year-old Aaron when she was only 14

Married at 15: America's Child Brides

1,019,923 views • Mar 25, 2019

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What are different countries position on child marriage?

- The United Nations is an international organisation of 193 countries that is responsible for maintaining international peace and security, developing friendly relations **and achieving international cooperation.**
- The UN passes resolutions that member states should abide by and under certain circumstances can be regarded as international law.

Task:

1. Read through your allocated country's position on child marriage. Note down the following details in your own words in a written summary:
 - Their view on child marriage
 - Why they think child marriage occurs
 - Possible solutions to child marriage
2. Be ready to share your written summary with the class – *you are in character as your allocated country (so these views may not represent your own)*

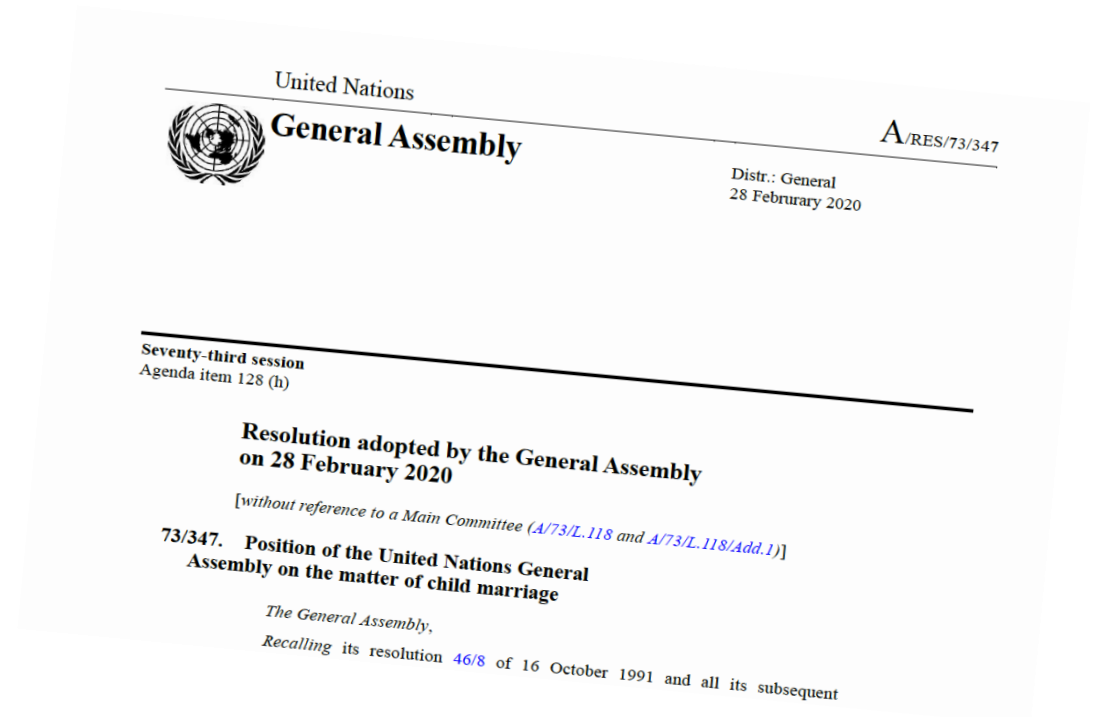
What will the UN's position be?

1. The chair (teacher) will call each country in turn.
2. Each country will explain their position and say what action they would like to see. There will be no interruptions.
3. The chair's assistant (nominated student) will note down the actions that each country proposes.
4. Once each country has spoken, the chair's assistant will list the proposed actions.
5. The chair will then facilitate an open debate where these proposed actions are discussed.
6. Some of these actions will then be put to the vote to determine the United Nations position on child marriage.



Think, pair, share

- Now that you have agreed a resolution on child marriage, consider the challenges you will face in implementing this around the world.
- Once you have discussed in your pairs, list your 3 most likely challenges in your book.



What are forced marriages?

Now we have looked at child marriages, we're now going to focus on forced marriages.

- Forced marriages may not necessarily involve a child (someone under the age of 18). Forced marriages can happen to **anyone of any age or gender**.
- They are called forced marriages, because people are **married without the persons consent**, or against their will.
- According to statistics published by the UK government in 2018, 75% of cases involved women, with 17% involving men – (gender in the remaining cases was unknown).
- Forced marriage is **not a problem specific to one country or culture**. Since 2011, the FMU (Forced Marriage Unit) has handled cases relating to over 110 countries across Asia, the Middle East, Africa, Europe and North America.

True or False?

- To find out more about forced marriages, we're going to take a quick true or false quiz.
- For each statement that appears, you're going to have 30 seconds in your pairs to discuss it.
- Your teacher will then reveal whether the statement is true or false and the reason being with some key facts.

True or False?

“Forced marriage and arranged marriage are the same.”

False

- In an arranged marriage, the bride and groom give their consent. Forced marriage is carried out **without the consent** of the participants and often **involves pressure** or coercion.
- Forced marriage is **not** permissible within any culture or religion.

True or False?

“There is legislation against forced marriages in the UK.”

True

- It is **illegal** to force someone into marriage. The penalty is prosecution and up to seven years in prison.
- **The Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014** made it a criminal offence in England, Wales and Scotland to force someone to marry. (It is a criminal offence in Northern Ireland under separate legislation).

True or False?

“Parents know what they’re doing is wrong.”

False

- The concept of family honour means that some parents see nothing wrong with their behaviour. Their child may have been promised in marriage to a member of the extended family, such as a cousin. The wish to build family ties, keep wealth within the family and preserve cultural or religious traditions can override the wishes of their child.

True or False?

“We shouldn’t discuss forced marriages.”

False

- Forced marriage should be discussed in order to raise awareness of them.
- It can **sometimes** involve child abuse, abduction, violence, rape, unwanted pregnancy or enforced abortion.
- Refusing to marry can place a young person at risk of murder, sometimes also known as an **‘honour killing’** or **‘shame killing’**. This is where a murder of a member family happens. This may be due to the perpetrators' belief that the victim has brought shame or dishonour upon the family, or has violated the principles of a community or a religion with an **honour** culture.

Further support

- If you, or anyone you know is facing pressure surrounding the topics we have discussed today, you can speak to:
- Your teacher, form tutor, Head of Year or a member of the safeguarding team.
- You can also visit the NSPCC or ChildLine website or Karma Nirvana – a UK leading charity supporting honour based and forced marriage victims.

The NSPCC logo consists of the letters "NSPCC" in a bold, green, sans-serif font.