

Informal Exchange of Views with European Union Member States ahead of Zambia's UPR, 42nd UPR Session, Human Rights Council

Recommendations by the UPR Project at BCU (Cited in the OHCHR's Summary of
Stakeholders' Submissions as "UPR-BCU") (A/HRC/WG.6/42/ZMB/3)

Recommendations for EUMS to provide for Zambia's UPR:

Child, Early and Forced Marriage:

- Prioritise passing the **Children's Code Bill** into law in order to harmonise statutory laws and customary laws on marriage, and eliminate elements of customary law that are discriminatory against girls and women.
- Adopt the **Southern African Development Community Model Law** to end CEFM.
- Amend the **Marriage Act**, and adopt policy that clearly defines marriage as a union between two consenting adults and prohibits child marriage.
- Fully implement the **National Action Plan to End Child Marriage in Zambia**. This includes regular monitoring and tracking of progress against targets set under the Plan.
- Adopt a **COVID-19 response strategy** that extends beyond health and prioritises the prevention and elimination of CEFM.
- **Empower girls and boys** to be better able to prevent and respond to child marriage.
- Conduct, in consultation with relevant stakeholders, **awareness raising and education programmes** aimed at addressing the negative implications of CEFM and how to effectively address the issue. These should be targeted at community and religious leaders.
- Develop a **strategy for the dissemination of knowledge on CEFM**, including awareness-building and mechanisms for reporting and obtaining assistance, by utilising mass media, community radio, and social media platforms.

Dr. Amna Nazir, Reader in International Human Rights, Associate Director of the Centre for Human Rights, School of Law. Address: Birmingham City University, Curzon Building, 4 Cardigan Street, Birmingham, B4 7BD, UK. Email: amna.nazir@bcu.ac.uk