

## **Informal Exchange of Views with European Union Member States ahead of Gabon'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/GAB/3)**

### **Recommendations for EUMS to provide for Gabon's UPR:**

#### *Child, Early and Forced Marriage:*

- Prioritise passing the draft **Children's Code** into law which will establish 18 years as the minimum age of marriage for girls and boys.
- **Amend the Civil Code**, and adopt policy that clearly defines marriage as a union between two consenting adults and prohibits child marriage.
- **Establish a National Action Plan to End Child Marriage** in Gabon. 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.

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