

I. HIV/AIDS and Young People

World AIDS Day was recognized on 1 December 2014. In the lead up to World AIDS Day on 1 December 2014, UNFPA Executive Director Dr. Babatunde Osotimehin, UNFPA Executive Director, made remarks commemorating World AIDS Day in which he discussed the most vulnerable populations for HIV/AIDS. Dr. Osotimehin noted that adolescent girls and young people living with HIV are particularly vulnerable as they lack life-saving resources that meet their reproductive needs. Furthermore, stigma and discrimination continues for people living with HIV and AIDS, while death rates remain high among adolescents.

In December 2014, Ann Hidalgo, the mayor of Paris, France, hosted a World AIDS Day event where mayors from around the world joined with Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS), United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat), and the International Association of Providers of AIDS Care (IAPAC) to sign a declaration to end the AIDS epidemic. The *2014 Paris Declaration* outlines a 90-90-90 goal, which aims to have 90% of people with HIV knowing their HIV status, 90% of people who know their HIV-positive status on antiretroviral treatment, and 90% of people on treatment with suppressed viral loads. Also known as the Fast-Track approach, UNAIDS announced that this strategy will make it possible to end the AIDS epidemic by the year 2030. The Fast-Track approach is to be implemented over the next five years in order to prevent the HIV infection rate, which has been on the decline, from rebounding and having a higher rate of new HIV infections in the future.

Lastly, in Geneva, Switzerland, 50 activists from youth networks, governments, donors, and UNAIDS co-sponsors met to discuss HIV/AIDS and youth. Specifically, the consultation discussed the issue of youth being left behind in the global AIDS response and that ongoing efforts are required to create accountability and track progress. The group agreed that more could be done to foster the potential of adolescents and young people. The group created an action plan for partners to deliver results, this plan, “The All In agenda,” will be launched in February 2015.

Sources:

Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS. (2014, December 1). *Fast-track cities: ending the aids epidemic*. Retrieved on 13 December 2014, from:

http://www.unaids.org/sites/default/files/media_asset/20141201_Paris_Declaration_en.pdf

Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS. (2014). *Fast-track: ending the AIDS epidemic by 2030*. Retrieved on 13 December 2014, from: http://www.unaids.org/sites/default/files/media_asset/JC2686_WAD2014report_en.pdf

Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS. (2014, December 1). *Mayors from around the world sign Paris Declaration to end the AIDS epidemic*. Retrieved on 13 December 2014, from:

http://www.unaids.org/en/resources/presscentre/pressreleaseandstatementarchive/2014/december/20141201_PR_citiesreport

Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS. (2014, November 18). *UNAIDS reports that reaching Fast-Track Targets will avert nearly 28 million new HIV infections and end the AIDS epidemic as a global health threat by 2030*. Retrieved on 13 December 2014, from:

http://www.unaids.org/en/resources/presscentre/pressreleaseandstatementarchive/2014/november/20141118_PR_WAD2014report

United Nations Population Fund. (2014, November 28). *Universal Human Rights and Access – Key to ending AIDS*. Retrieved on 13 December 2014, from: <http://www.unfpa.org/news/universal-human-rights-and-access-key-ending-aids>

II. Adolescent Girls and Child Marriages

On 5 September 2014, the United Nations General Assembly held its first-ever panel discussion on child marriage. Requested by General Assembly (GA) resolution *A/RES/68/148* from 21 November 2013, the panel focused on the post-2015 Development Agenda and on the human rights and development costs of child, early, and forced marriages. Moderated by Mabel van Oranje, Chair of *Girls Not Brides* (a global partnership of more than 400 civil society organizations from over 60 countries), the panel addressed what can be done now and post-2015 to end the practice of child marriage. Panelists and Member States agreed that, because the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) failed to devote attention to adolescent girls and child marriage, international efforts to reduce global poverty were hampered. The panel unanimously supported the inclusion of a specific, strong target directed at ending child marriage in the post-2015 development framework.

As a follow-up to this panel and building upon the 2013 procedural resolutions adopted by the General Assembly and the Human Rights Council, the body drafted *A/C.3/69/L.23*, a resolution on child, early, and forced marriage, on 21 November 2014. The draft was adopted without a vote by the General Assembly on 18 December 2014. The resolution reaffirms that child marriage is a severely inhibiting practice that impairs girls and women's rights; threatens their health, education, economic, and social status; is rooted in gender inequalities, norms, and stereotypes; and represents a significant barrier to development and overcoming poverty. The resolution is important not only because it increases international attention to the issue, but it represents the first time that Member States have agreed on the steps that they, and partners in international organizations and civil society, should be taking to address child marriage.

Additionally, for the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence Campaign, an annual international event that began on 25 November, the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, and ended on 10 December, Human Rights Day, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) chose its own theme: 'Protecting Rights and Preserving Childhoods: Working Together to Address Child Marriage'. UNHCR offices across the world held a variety of activities to mark the 16 Days of Activism, including the display of drawings and stories from children depicting their opinions, fears, and experiences of child marriage, in order to raise awareness about the issue.

Sources:

Equality Now. (2014). *Protecting The Girl Child: Using the law to end child, early and forced marriage and related human rights violations*. Retrieved 10 December 2014, from:

http://www.equalitynow.org/sites/default/files/Protecting_the_Girl_Child.pdf

Girls Not Brides. (2014). *A Theory of Change on Child Marriage*. Retrieved 11 December 2014, from:

<http://www.girlsnotbrides.org/reports-and-publications/theory-change-child-marriage/>

Girls Not Brides. (2014). *First-ever panel at United Nations General Assembly puts child marriage in the spotlight*.

Retrieved 8 December 2014, from: <http://www.girlsnotbrides.org/first-ever-panel-united-nations-general-assembly-puts-child-marriage-spotlight/>

Girls Not Brides. (2014). *First-ever UNGA panel discussion on child marriage and implications for post-2015 agenda*.

Retrieved 8 December 2014, from: <http://www.girlsnotbrides.org/media-advisory-first-ever-unga-panel-discussion-child-marriage-implications-post-2015-agenda/>

Girls Not Brides. (2014). *Girls Not Brides statement on UN General Assembly resolution on child, early and forced marriage*.

Retrieved 9 December 2014, from: <http://www.girlsnotbrides.org/girls-brides-statement-un-general-assembly-resolution-child-early-forced-marriage/>

Girls Not Brides. (2013). *United Nations General Assembly adopts resolution on "child, early and forced marriage"*.

Retrieved 9 December 2014, from: <http://www.girlsnotbrides.org/united-nations-general-assembly-adopts-resolution-on-child-early-and-forced-marriage/>

Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. (2014). *16 Days of Activism: UNHCR vows to work for the end of child marriage*. Retrieved 9 December 2014, from: <http://www.unhcr.org/5474ab956.html>

United Nations General Assembly. (2013). *Child, early and forced marriage (A/RES/68/148)*. Retrieved 9 December 2014, from: http://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/68/148

United Nations General Assembly. (2014). *Adopting 68 Texts Recommended by Third Committee, General Assembly Sends Strong Message towards Ending Impunity, Renewing Efforts to Protect Human Rights*. Retrieved 13 January 2015 from: <http://www.un.org/press/en/2014/ga11604.doc.htm>

United Nations General Assembly Third Committee. (2014). *Promotion and protection of the rights of children: Child, Early and Forced Marriage (A/C.3/69/L.23/Rev.1)*. Retrieved 13 January 2015, from: <http://undocs.org/A/C.3/69/L.23/Rev.1>