

Marriage Laws around the World

COUNTRY	CODED TEXT	Source	Additional sources
Afghanistan	<p>Despite a law setting the legal minimum age for marriage at 16 (15 with the consent of a parent or guardian and the court) for girls and 18 for boys, international and local observers continued to report widespread early marriage. The media reported a 2014 survey by the Ministry of Public Health that sampled 24,032 households in all 34 provinces showed 53 percent of all women ages 25-49 married by age 18 and 21 percent by age 15. According to the Central Statistics Organization of Afghanistan, 17.3 percent of girls ages 15 to 19 and 66.2 percent of girls ages 20 to 24 were married. During the EAW law debate, conservative politicians publicly stated it was un-Islamic to ban the marriage of girls younger than 16. Under the EAW law, those who arrange forced or underage marriages may be sentenced to imprisonment for not less than two years, but implementation of the law remained limited. The Law on Marriage states marriage of a minor may be conducted with a guardian's consent. By law a marriage contract requires verification that the bride is 16 years of age, but only a small fraction of the population had birth certificates. Following custom, some poor families pledged their daughters to marry in exchange for "bride money," although the practice is illegal. According to local NGOs, some girls as young as six or seven were promised in marriage, with the understanding the actual marriage would be delayed until the child reached puberty. Reports indicated, however, that this delay was rarely observed and young girls were sexually violated by the groom or by older men in the family, particularly if the groom was also a child. Media reports also noted the "opium bride" phenomenon, in which farming families married off their daughters to settle debts to opium traffickers.</p>	<p>[Source: Department of State Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2015 http://www.state.gov/j/drl/rls/hrrpt/humanrightsreport/]</p>	
Albania	<p>Although the legal minimum age for marriage is 18, authorities did not enforce the law. Underage marriages occurred mostly in rural areas and within Romani communities. According to 2009 statistics from the UN Population Fund (UNFPA), 9.6 percent of women between the ages of 20 and 24 were married before they were 18. The UNFPA reported that in 2011, approximately 31 percent of female Romani children between the ages of 13 and 17 were married. ARSIS reported that, in certain Romani communities, girls as young as seven or boys as young as nine were considered married. Through September ARSIS assisted 12 underage girls who ran away because their families were forcing them into marriage and two who were fleeing existing 'spouses'. Some NGOs reported that early and forced marriages occurred in rural communities as part of human trafficking schemes, when parents consented for their underage girls to marry older foreign men, who subsequently trafficked them to other countries.</p>	<p>Source: Department of State Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2015 http://www.state.gov/j/drl/rls/hrrpt/humanrightsreport/]</p>	
Algeria	<p>The legal minimum age of marriage is 19 for both men and women, but minors may marry with parental consent, regardless of gender. The law forbids legal guardians from forcing minors under their care to marry against the minor's will. The Ministry of Religious Affairs required that couples present a government-issued marriage certificate before permitting imams to conduct religious marriage ceremonies. UN statistics from 2013 showed that 6 percent of women ages 20 to 49 were married by or before age 18.</p>	<p>Source: Department of State Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2015 http://www.state.gov/j/drl/rls/hrrpt/humanrightsreport/]</p>	
Andorra	<p>The minimum legal age of marriage is 16 years for both women and men and as early as 14 years with judicial authority. In 2014, the most recent year for available data, authorities did not record any marriages below the age of 18 years.</p>	<p>Source: Department of State Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2015 http://www.state.gov/j/drl/rls/hrrpt/humanrightsreport/]</p>	

Angola	The legal age for marriage with parental consent is 15 years. The government did not enforce this restriction effectively, and the traditional age of marriage in lower income groups coincided with the onset of puberty. Data on the rate of marriage for boys and girls under age 18 was not available. Common-law marriage was widely practiced.	Source: Department of State Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2015 http://www.state.gov/j/drl/rls/hrrpt/humanrightsreport/]	Women and men who have reached the age of 15 and 16 respectively may marry only under exceptional circumstances. UNDAW_CEDAW Country Reports_Aug2007 [Source http://data.un.org/]
Antigua and Barbuda	The legal minimum age for marriage is 18 years for both men and women. Children between 15 and 18 could marry with parental consent; however, underage marriage was rare, and the government did not keep statistics on it.	Source: Department of State Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2015 http://www.state.gov/j/drl/rls/hrrpt/humanrightsreport/]	
Argentina	The legal minimum age of marriage for men and women is 18.	Source: Department of State Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2015 http://www.state.gov/j/drl/rls/hrrpt/humanrightsreport/]	
Armenia	According to UNICEF, 7.2 percent of children (both boys and girls) married by the age of 18. Early marriage of girls was reportedly more frequent within the Yezidi communities, but the government took no measures to document the scale or address the practice.	Source: Department of State Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2015 http://www.state.gov/j/drl/rls/hrrpt/humanrightsreport/]	Women who have reached the age of 16 may marry only under exceptional circumstances. UNDAW_CEDAW Country Reports_Aug2007 [Source http://data.un.org/]
Australia	The legal minimum age of marriage is 18 for both boys and girls. A person between 16 and 18 years may apply to a judge or magistrate in a state or territory for an order authorizing marriage to a person who has attained 18 years, but the marriage of the minor still requires parental or guardian consent. Two persons younger than 18 years may not marry each other. While no statistics were available, reports of marriages involving a person younger than 18 years were rare.	Source: Department of State Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2015 http://www.state.gov/j/drl/rls/hrrpt/humanrightsreport/]	
Austria	The minimum legal age for marriage is 18 years. Adolescents between 16 and 18 years may legally contract a marriage if they obtain a special permit for this purpose. NGOs estimated there were approximately 200 cases of early marriage annually, primarily in the Muslim and Romani communities.	Source: Department of State Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2015 http://www.state.gov/j/drl/rls/hrrpt/humanrightsreport/]	
Azerbaijan	The law provides for a girl legally to marry at age 18 or at age 17 with local authorities' permission. The law further states that a boy may marry at age 18. The Caucasus Muslim Board defines 18 as the marriage age, but the fatwa failed to have much effect on religious marriage contracts (kabin or kabin-nama). The criminal code establishes fines of 3,000 to 4,000 manat (\$1,850 to \$2,470) or imprisonment of up to four years for conviction of the crime of forced marriage with underage children. According to the UN special rapporteur, in 2014 forced marriages of underage girls remained a problem and continued to endanger their lives. A 2014 UN Population Fund report stated that 12 percent of girls were married by age 18. NGOs reported that the number of early marriages continued to increase. The	Source: Department of State Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2015 http://www.state.gov/j/drl/rls/hrrpt/humanrightsreport/]	

	Government reported at least 15 criminal cases on early marriages during the year. Girls who married under the terms of religious marriage contracts were of particular concern, since these were not subject to government oversight and do not entitle the wife to recognition of her status in case of divorce. The Social Union of Solidarity among Women reported numerous instances in which men moved to Russia for work, leaving their underage wives in the country. The SCFWCA conducted activities in IDP and refugee communities to prevent early marriage.		
Bahamas	The legal minimum age for marriage is 18, although minors may marry at 15 with parental permission.	Source: Department of State Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2015 http://www.state.gov/j/drl/rls/hrrpt/humanrightsreport/]	
Bahrain	According to law the minimum age of marriage is 15 years for girls and 18 for boys, but special circumstances allow marriages below these ages with approval from a sharia court. The government made concerted efforts to draw attention to the dangers of early marriage for girls and the adverse effect on children's health.	Source: Department of State Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2015 http://www.state.gov/j/drl/rls/hrrpt/humanrightsreport/]	
Bangladesh	The legal age of marriage is 18 for women and 21 for men, but underage marriage was a serious problem. The draft Child Marriage Restraint Act, which was the subject of intense national debate, increases penalties for those arranging underage marriages but may also create a parental-consent exemption, which could allow legal marriage by girls as young as 16. Reliable statistics concerning underage marriage were difficult to identify, because marriage and birth registrations were sporadic. The UN's State of the World's Children 2013 report stated that between 2002 and 2011, 32 percent of women between the ages of 20 and 24 in Bangladesh were married by age 15 and 66 percent were married by age 18. In an effort to reduce child marriages, the government offered stipends for girls' school expenses beyond the compulsory fifth-grade level. The government and NGOs conducted workshops and public events to teach parents the importance of their daughters waiting until age 18 before marrying.	Source: Department of State Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2015 http://www.state.gov/j/drl/rls/hrrpt/humanrightsreport/]	
Barbados	The legal minimum age for marriage is 18 years	Source: Department of State Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2015 http://www.state.gov/j/drl/rls/hrrpt/humanrightsreport/]	
Belarus	The legal minimum age of marriage for both boys and girls is 18 years old, although girls as young as 14 can be married legally with parental consent. There were reports of early marriage in which girls as young as 14 and boys as young as 16 married with parental consent.	Source: Department of State Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2015 http://www.state.gov/j/drl/rls/hrrpt/humanrightsreport/]	
Belgium	The law provides that both (consenting) partners must be at least 18 years old to marry.	Source: Department of State Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2015 http://www.state.gov/j/drl/rls/hrrpt/humanrightsreport/]	

Belize	The legal minimum age to marry is 18, but persons between ages 16 and 18 may marry with the consent of parents, legal guardians, or judicial authority.	Source: Department of State Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2015 http://www.state.gov/j/drl/rls/hrrpt/humanrightsreport/]	
Benin	The law prohibits marriage under age 18 but allows underage marriage (14 to 17) with parental consent, the consent of the underage individuals, and authorization of a judge. A 2014 Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey sponsored by UNICEF and the National Institute of Statistics and Economic Analysis indicated that 8.8 percent of women and 1.4 percent of boys and men ages 15 to 49 were married or were cohabitating with someone of the opposite sex before age 15. The proportion of women ages 20 to 49 who were married or who were cohabitating with someone of the opposite sex before age 18 was 31.7 percent, and the proportion of men in the same age range was 6.1 percent. Early and forced marriage included barter marriage and marriage by abduction. For 2013 the Ministry of Family's Social Promotion Center recorded 575 cases of forced child marriage. As part of forced marriage, the groom traditionally abducts and rapes his prospective child bride. The practice was widespread in rural areas, despite government and NGO efforts to end it through information sessions on the rights of women and children. Local NGOs reported some communities concealed the practice. On June 16, the Ministry of Family held a high-level meeting to discuss government efforts to eliminate early and forced marriage. In October 2014 the government approved a UNICEF-sponsored National Policy of Child Protection, which outlines principal prevention strategies to address and respond to various forms of child violence and exploitation, including early and forced marriage.	Source: Department of State Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2015 http://www.state.gov/j/drl/rls/hrrpt/humanrightsreport/]	
Bhutan	The statutory minimum age of marriage for both men and women is 18. Statistics from the 2010 BMIS indicated that 31 percent of marriages occurred before age 18, and 7 percent before age 15. In 2010, 15 percent of girls and young women ages 15-19 were either married or in a civil union. While child marriage has become less common in urban areas, in remote villages there were reports of secret marriage ceremonies involving girls younger than 15. Child marriage took place in all regions, but the incidence was higher in the western and central areas of the country. The government initiative Youth Friendly Health Services sought to prevent child marriage. It conducted community outreach and awareness campaigns to alert communities to the dangers of child marriage.	Source: Department of State Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2015 http://www.state.gov/j/drl/rls/hrrpt/humanrightsreport/]	
Bolivia	The minimum age for marriage is 14 for girls and 16 for boys. Minors' parents or guardians must approve marriages between adolescents under 18.	Source: Department of State Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2015 http://www.state.gov/j/drl/rls/hrrpt/humanrightsreport/]	
Bosnia and Herzegovina	The legal minimum age for marriage is 18, or 16 with parental consent. In certain Romani communities, girls married between the ages of 12 and 14. Children's rights and antitrafficking activists noted that prosecutors were reluctant to investigate and prosecute arranged marriages involving Romani minors on the grounds that such marriages were "their way." The government did not have any programs specifically designed to reduce the incidence of child marriage.	Source: Department of State Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2015 http://www.state.gov/j/drl/rls/hrrpt/humanrightsreport/]	
Botswana	Child marriage occurred infrequently and was largely limited to certain tribes. The government does not recognize marriages that occur when either party is under the minimum legal age of 18.	Source: Department of State Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2015	

		http://www.state.gov/j/drl/rls/hrrpt/humanrightsreport/]	
Brazil	The legal minimum age of marriage is 18 (age 16 with parental or legal representative consent). According to data from UNICEF, more than 11 percent of women age 20-24 were married before age 15, and 36 percent of women age 20-24 were married before age 18.	Source: Department of State Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2015 http://www.state.gov/j/drl/rls/hrrpt/humanrightsreport/]	
Brunei	The legal minimum age of marriage for both boys and girls is 14 with parental and participant consent, unless otherwise stipulated by religion or custom under the law, which generally set a higher minimum age. The Islamic Family Act sets the minimum marriageable age at 16 for Muslim girls and 18 for Muslim men and makes it an offense to use force, threat, or deception to compel a person to marry against his or her will. Ethnic Chinese must be age 15 or older to marry, according to the Chinese Marriage Act, which also stipulates sexual intercourse with an ethnic Chinese girl under age 15 is considered rape even if it is with her spouse.	Source: Department of State Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2015 http://www.state.gov/j/drl/rls/hrrpt/humanrightsreport/]	18 without consent http://unstats.un.org/unsd/demographic/products/indwm/
Bulgaria	The minimum age for marriage is 18. In exceptional cases, a person can enter into marriage at 16 with permission from the regional court. According to the National Statistical Institute, in 2014 there were 393 marriages of girls under 18, or 1.6 percent of the total number, which continued an increasing trend since 2009, when the figure was 0.6 percent. As of July courts sentenced 84 persons for cohabitating with a person less than 14 years of age, which is punishable by law with two to five years in prison. NGOs reported that child marriage was a pervasive problem in Romani communities and resulted in school dropouts, early childbirths, poor parenting, and spreading poverty. Arguing that underage mothers pose a risk of careless parenting, in July the government passed amendments to the Law on Family Allowances for Children, which discontinued allowance payments for minors who become parents. If a minor parent continues to attend school, however, his or her family is entitled to the full amount of the allowance as a lump sum. The National Network for Children criticized authorities for viewing early marriages and resulting early parenthood as an ethnic Romani rather than a gender problem.	Source: Department of State Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2015 http://www.state.gov/j/drl/rls/hrrpt/humanrightsreport/]	
Burkina Faso	The legal age for marriage is 17 for girls and 20 for boys, but early and forced marriage was a problem. According to a 2015 UNICEF report, 10 percent of women ages 20 to 24 were married or in a union before age 15, and 52 percent were married before age 18. The law prohibits forced marriage and prescribes penalties of six months to two years in prison for violators--and a three-year prison term if the victim is under age 13. There were no reports of prosecutions during the year. A government toll-free number allowed citizens to report forced marriages. On March 3, authorities launched the African Union Campaign to End Child Marriage in Dori, the Sahel region, which had the highest rate of child marriage; 80 percent of girls ages 15 to 17 in the region already were married. On March 2, the Ministry of Social Action and National Solidarity held an advocacy session for religious and traditional leaders to raise awareness of the problem of early marriage in the Sahel region.	Source: Department of State Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2015 http://www.state.gov/j/drl/rls/hrrpt/humanrightsreport/]	
Burma	The minimum age requirement for marriage is 18, but child marriage was known to occur. There were no reliable statistics for early and forced marriage.	Source: Department of State Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2015 http://www.state.gov/j/drl/rls/hrrpt/humanrightsreport/]	

Burundi	The legal age for marriage is 18 for girls and 21 for boys. No statistics were available on the rate of early marriage. Forced marriages are illegal and were rare, although they reportedly occurred in southern, more heavily Muslim, areas. The Ministry of Interior continued an effort to convince imams not to officiate over illegal marriages.	Source: Department of State Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2015 http://www.state.gov/j/drl/rls/hrrpt/humanrightsreport/]	
Cabo Verde	The legal minimum age of marriage is 18 years. According to data from a 2012 study conducted by the INE and sponsored by UN Women, the average age of marriage for women was 34, while the average age for men was 38.	Source: Department of State Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2015 http://www.state.gov/j/drl/rls/hrrpt/humanrightsreport/]	
Cambodia	The legal minimum age of marriage for boys and girls is 18 years; however, children as young as 16 years may legally marry with parental permission. During the year 18 percent of women between 20 and 24 years married before age 18, and 2 percent married before age 16. Culturally, child marriage was not considered a problem. The government and a local NGO took steps to raise awareness of the legal minimum-age requirement.	Source: Department of State Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2015 http://www.state.gov/j/drl/rls/hrrpt/humanrightsreport/]	
Cameroon	The minimum legal age for marriage is 15 for girls and 18 for men, although many families reportedly tried to marry off their girls before the age of 12. According to the UN Children's Fund, 38 percent of women and girls age 20 to 24 were married or in union by the age of 18, and 13 percent by age 15. Early marriage was prevalent in the regions of Adamaoua, North, and particularly Far North, where many girls as young as nine faced severe health risks as a result of pregnancies. The government conducted education campaigns as a means to combat early marriages. With support from UNFPA and the Norwegian Hospital in Ngaoundere, the government also provided medical support and reintegration services to victims.	Source: Department of State Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2015 http://www.state.gov/j/drl/rls/hrrpt/humanrightsreport/]	
Canada	In June the government passed legislation establishing 16 years as the legal minimum age of marriage. The rate of marriage for individuals under age 18 was unavailable, but early marriages were not known to be a major problem. In June the government criminalized the removal of a child from the country for the purpose of early and forced marriage and created a court-ordered peace bond, which may include surrendering of a passport, to disrupt an attempt to remove a child for that purpose.	Source: Department of State Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2015 http://www.state.gov/j/drl/rls/hrrpt/humanrightsreport/]	
Central African Republic	The law establishes 18 as the minimum age for civil marriage. Nonetheless, an estimated 68 percent of women between ages 20 and 24 were married before age 18 and 29 percent before age 15, according to UNICEF data collected between 2005 and 2013. UNICEF reported forced marriages were on the rise among young girls in rural areas where the transitional government lacked authority. The transitional government did not take steps to address forced marriage. The practice of early marriage was more common in the Muslim community. There were reports during the year of forced marriages of young girls to ex-Seleka and anti-Balaka members.	Source: Department of State Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2015 http://www.state.gov/j/drl/rls/hrrpt/humanrightsreport/]	
Chad	On June 30, the National Assembly ratified a law that sets the minimum age for marriage at 18. The law precludes invoking the consent of the minor spouse to justify child marriage and prescribes sentences of five to 10 years' imprisonment and fines of 500,000 to 5,000,000 CFA (\$867 to \$8,670) for persons convicted of perpetrating child marriage. According to a study conducted by the Ministry of Women, Early Childhood Protection and National Solidarity in the regions of Mandou, Ouaddai, and Tandjile, 68 percent of girls were married before age 18; 29 percent were married before age 15.	Source: Department of State Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2015 http://www.state.gov/j/drl/rls/hrrpt/humanrightsreport/]	
Chile	The legal minimum age of marriage is 18 (16 with parental consent).	Source: Department of State Country Reports	

		on Human Rights Practices for 2015 http://www.state.gov/j/drl/rls/hrrpt/humanrightsreport/]	
China	The legal minimum age for marriage is 22 for men and 20 for women. Child marriage was not known to be a problem, but there were reports of babies sold to be future brides. In such cases families would adopt and raise babies for eventual marriage to their sons.	Source: Department of State Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2015 http://www.state.gov/j/drl/rls/hrrpt/humanrightsreport/]	
China (Hong Kong)	The legal minimum age of marriage is 16, and parents' written consent is required for marriage before the age of 21. There was no evidence of early or forced marriage in the SAR.	Source: Department of State Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2015 http://www.state.gov/j/drl/rls/hrrpt/humanrightsreport/]	
China (Macau)	The minimum age for marriage is 16. Children between ages 16 and 18 who wish to marry must get approval from their parents or guardians.	Source: Department of State Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2015 http://www.state.gov/j/drl/rls/hrrpt/humanrightsreport/]	
Colombia	Marriage is legal at age 18. Boys over 14 and girls over 12 may marry with the consent of their parents.	Source: Department of State Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2015 http://www.state.gov/j/drl/rls/hrrpt/humanrightsreport/]	
Comoros	The legal minimum age of marriage is 18 years for both boys and girls. There were no reports of marriages before that age or of forced marriages.	Source: Department of State Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2015 http://www.state.gov/j/drl/rls/hrrpt/humanrightsreport/]	
Costa Rica	The minimum legal age of marriage is 18, or 15 with parental consent. During the year INAMU continued implementing an awareness campaign to prevent adult-minor relationships and to inform about the legal consequences.	Source: Department of State Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2015 http://www.state.gov/j/drl/rls/hrrpt/humanrightsreport/]	
Croatia	The legal minimum age for marriage is 18. Children older than age 16 may marry with a judge's written consent. While statistics were unavailable, NGOs cited early and forced marriage as a problem in the Romani community. Common law marriages between minors who were 16 years of age and older were customary and often prompted by pregnancies. In some instances these marriages were legalized when the partners reached adulthood.	Source: Department of State Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2015 http://www.state.gov/j/drl/rls/hrrpt/humanrightsreport/]	

Cuba	The legal minimum age of consent for marriage is 18. Marriage for girls as young as 14 and for boys as young as 16 is permitted with parental consent. According to UNICEF, 40 percent of women ages 20-24 were married before age 18, and 9 percent of women ages 20-24 were married before 15. There was no available information on the government's efforts to prevent or mitigate early marriage.	Source: Department of State Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2015 http://www.state.gov/j/drl/rls/hrrpt/humanrightsreport/]	
Cyprus	The legal age of marriage is 18, but persons between the ages of 16 and 18 may marry, provided there are serious reasons justifying the marriage and their legal guardians provide written consent. A district court can also allow the marriage of persons between the ages of 16 and 18, if the parents unjustifiably refuse consent or in the absence of legal guardians. North Cyprus: The minimum age of marriage for girls and boys is 18. A "court" may allow marriages for minors who are between the ages of 16 and 18 if they receive parental consent.	Source: Department of State Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2015 http://www.state.gov/j/drl/rls/hrrpt/humanrightsreport/]	
Czech Republic	The minimum legal age for marriage is 18. Some members of the Romani community married before reaching legal age. The law allows for marriage at the age of 16 with court approval; no official marriages were reported of anyone under 16.	Source: Department of State Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2015 http://www.state.gov/j/drl/rls/hrrpt/humanrightsreport/]	
Democratic Republic of the Congo	While the law prohibits marriage of boys and girls under age 18, many marriages of underage children took place. A 2013-14 DHS found 37.3 percent of women between ages 20-24 reported their first cohabitation with a partner was before the age of 18 and 10 percent before the age of 15, most of which the government treated as common-law marriages. Bridewealth (dowry) payment made by a groom or his family to the relatives of the bride to ratify a marriage greatly contributed to underage marriage, as parents forcibly married daughters to collect bridewealth or to finance bridewealth for a son. The constitution criminalizes forced marriage. Courts may sentence parents convicted of forcing a child to marry to up to 12 years' hard labor and a fine of 92,500 Congolese francs (\$100). The penalty doubles when the child is under age 15. Magistrates in the northern provinces of North Ubangi and South Ubangi began trying child marriage cases as gender violence, although the penalties were difficult to enforce. Local NGOs credited the magistrates' efforts to information campaigns conducted among the local population and refugee camps, often supported by UNHCR.	Source: Department of State Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2015 http://www.state.gov/j/drl/rls/hrrpt/humanrightsreport/]	
Denmark	The legal age for marriage is 18.	Source: Department of State Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2015 http://www.state.gov/j/drl/rls/hrrpt/humanrightsreport/]	
Djibouti	Although the law fixes the minimum legal age of marriage at 18 years, it provides that "marriage of minors who have not reached the legal age of majority is subject to the consent of their guardians." Child marriage occasionally occurred in rural areas, where it was considered a traditional practice rather than a problem. The Ministry for the Promotion of Women and Family Planning worked with women's groups throughout the country to protect the rights of girls, including the right to decide when and whom to marry.	Source: Department of State Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2015 http://www.state.gov/j/drl/rls/hrrpt/humanrightsreport/]	
Dominica	The legal minimum age for marriage is 18 years for both men and women, but 16 years with parental consent.	Source: Department of State Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2015 http://www.state.gov/j/drl/rls/hrrpt/humanrightsreport/]	

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Dominican Republic	The legal minimum age for marriage with parental consent is 16 for boys and 15 for girls. According to the latest available UN data, approximately 41 percent of women ages 20 to 24 were married before the age of 18 and 12 percent were married before age 15, while only 9 percent of boys married before age 18. The government conducted no known prevention or mitigation programs. Girls often married much older men. Child marriage occurred more frequently among girls who were uneducated, poor, and living in rural areas. More than half of poor women entered into their first marriage or union by age 17, compared with age 21 for women of means.	Source: Department of State Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2015 http://www.state.gov/j/drl/rls/hrrpt/humanrightsreport/]	Women and men who have reached the age of 16 may marry only with parental consent. UNPD_Inquiry on Population and Development_2003 [Source http://data.un.org/]
Ecuador	The legal age of marriage is 18. On June 11, a new procedural code went into effect that repeals provisions that had allowed marriage before the age of 18, with the exception that legally emancipated minors can marry at age 16.	Source: Department of State Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2015 http://www.state.gov/j/drl/rls/hrrpt/humanrightsreport/]	
Egypt	The legal age of marriage is 18. According to a panel hosted by the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights in Geneva in 2014, 23 percent of girls married before age 18; as many as 21 percent married before age 15. As many as 15 percent of all marriages in the country were child marriages, according to remarks made by the minister of population to the media in August. In February the government lifted its previous reservation on an article of the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child that prohibits marriage under age 18. The media reported some child marriages were temporary marriages intended to mask child prostitution. Families sometimes forced adolescent girls to marry wealthy foreign men in what were known locally as “tourism” or “summer” marriages for the purpose of sexual exploitation, prostitution, or forced labor. On December 8, the Ministry of Justice introduced measures intended to close legal loopholes and make tourism marriages more difficult to obtain. It changed an existing and long-standing system whereby a foreign man who wanted to marry an Egyptian woman more than 25 years younger than he is must pay a fine. The measure increased the fine from LE 40,000 (\$5,200) to LE 50,000 (\$6,500). Women’s rights organizations argued that allowing foreign men to pay a fine in order to marry much younger women represented a form of trafficking and encouraged child marriage. They called on the government to eliminate the system altogether. The Antitrafficking Unit at the National Council for Childhood and Motherhood, a governmental body, is responsible for raising awareness of the problem.	Source: Department of State Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2015 http://www.state.gov/j/drl/rls/hrrpt/humanrightsreport/]	
El Salvador	The legal minimum age for marriage is 18, although the law authorizes marriage from the age of 14 if both the boy and girl have reached puberty, if the girl is pregnant, or if the couple has a child.	Source: Department of State Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2015 http://www.state.gov/j/drl/rls/hrrpt/humanrightsreport/]	
Equatorial Guinea	There is no minimum age for marriage. Forced marriage occurred, especially in rural areas, although no statistics were available. The Ministry of Social Affairs and Gender Equality operated programs to deter child marriage but did not address forced marriage.	Source: Department of State Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2015 http://www.state.gov/j/drl/rls/hrrpt/humanrightsreport/]	

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Eritrea	The legal minimum age for marriage for both men and women is 18, although religious entities may condone marriages at younger ages. According to the 2010 Population and Health Survey, 41 percent of women ages 20-24 were married before 18 and 13 percent before age 15. Girls in rural areas were particularly at risk for early marriage. The government encouraged various semiofficial associations such as the National Union of Eritrean Women and the National Eritrean Youth and Student Association to discuss the impact of early marriage and raise awareness among youth about its negative consequences. Female ministers spoke publicly on the dangers of early marriage and collaborated with UN agencies to educate the public regarding these dangers. Many neighborhood committees also actively discouraged the practice.	Source: Department of State Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2015 http://www.state.gov/j/drl/rls/hrrpt/humanrightsreport/]	
Estonia	The legal minimum age for marriage is 18.	Source: Department of State Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2015 http://www.state.gov/j/drl/rls/hrrpt/humanrightsreport/]	
Ethiopia	The law sets the legal marriage age for girls and boys at 18; however, authorities did not enforce this law uniformly, and rural families sometimes were unaware of this provision. An NGO reported intervening in 400 early marriages. In several regions it was customary for older men to marry girls, although this traditional practice continued to face greater scrutiny and criticism. The government strategy to address underage marriage focused on education and mediation rather than punishment of offenders. According to a 2015 UNICEF report, 16 percent of women ages 20-24 were married before age 15 and 41 percent before age 18. According to the 2011 DHS, the median age of first marriage among women between the ages of 20 and 49 who were surveyed was 17.1 years, compared with 16.5 years in 2005. In the Amhara and Tigray regions, girls were married as early as age seven. Child marriage was most prevalent in the Amhara Region, where approximately 45 percent of girls marry before age 18, and the median first marriage age was 15.1 years, according to the 2011 DHS, compared with 14.7 years in 2005. Regional governments in Amhara and, to a lesser extent, Tigray offered programs to educate girls, young women, parents, community leaders, and health professionals on problems associated with early marriage.	Source: Department of State Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2015 http://www.state.gov/j/drl/rls/hrrpt/humanrightsreport/]	
Fiji	The legal minimum age for marriage is 18. Some NGOs reported that, especially in rural areas, girls often married at age 18, preventing them from completing their secondary school education. In indigenous villages girls under age 18 who became pregnant could live as common-law wives with their child's father after the men presented traditional apologies to the girls' families, thereby avoiding the filing of a complaint to police by the families. The girls frequently married the fathers as soon as legally permissible.	Source: Department of State Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2015 http://www.state.gov/j/drl/rls/hrrpt/humanrightsreport/]	
Finland	The minimum age of marriage is 18.	Source: Department of State Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2015 http://www.state.gov/j/drl/rls/hrrpt/humanrightsreport/]	

France	The minimum legal age for marriage is 18. Child marriage was a problem, particularly in communities of African or Asian descent. According to human rights observers, 70,000 children between the ages of 10 and 18 were at risk of forced marriage. Although most forced marriage ceremonies occurred outside the country, authorities took steps to address the problem. The law provides for the prosecution of forced marriage cases, even when the marriage occurred abroad. Penalties for violations are up to three years' imprisonment and a 45,000 euro (\$49,500) fine. Women and girls could seek refuge at shelters if their parents or guardians threatened them with forced marriage. The government offered educational programs to inform young women of their rights.	Source: Department of State Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2015 http://www.state.gov/j/drl/rls/hrrpt/humanrightsreport/]	
Gabon	The minimum age for consensual sex and marriage is age 15 for girls and age 18 for boys. It was rare for girls under age 18 to marry but common for them to be in relationships with men outside of marriage. Teenage pregnancy was widespread.	Source: Department of State Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2015 http://www.state.gov/j/drl/rls/hrrpt/humanrightsreport/]	
Gambia	Carnal knowledge with a girl under the age of 16 is a felony except within marriage, which can occur as early as age 12. The constitution states, "marriage shall be based on the free and full consent of the intended parties," although in many villages, girls reportedly were forced to marry at a young age. According to UNICEF's 2010 multiple indicator report, 8.6 percent of women married before they were 15 years old, while 46.5 percent married before the age of 18. The government worked in conjunction with the NGO Tostan and UNICEF on a joint community empowerment program seeking the abandonment of early and forced marriage.	Source: Department of State Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2015 http://www.state.gov/j/drl/rls/hrrpt/humanrightsreport/]	33rd session country report. No minimum legal age for marriage. The constitution states that men and women of "full age and capacity" shall have the right to marry and find a family [Source http://data.un.org/]
Georgia	The legal minimum age for marriage for both men and women is 18, although some exceptions were authorized at 16. According to the UN Fund for Population (UNFPA), 17 percent of women were married before age 18, but UNFPA noted the data were incomplete because most child marriages were not officially registered. Child marriages occurred more frequently among certain ethnic and religious groups. According to the Public Defender there were 265 marriages recorded in the first half of 2015 between persons ages 16 to 18. During the year the Open Society Georgia Foundation criticized the government for inadequately monitoring the law against early marriage. In April an amendment to the criminal code entered into force that made forced marriage of an individual under the age of 18 punishable by two to four years' imprisonment.	Source: Department of State Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2015 http://www.state.gov/j/drl/rls/hrrpt/humanrightsreport/]	
Germany	The legal minimum age for marriage is 18. Forced marriages are invalid and illegal--punishable by a prison sentence of up to five years. There were no reliable statistics on the number of forced or early marriages. The family court may, upon request, issue an exemption from this rule if the petitioner has reached the age of 16 and their future spouse is of legal age.	Source: Department of State Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2015 http://www.state.gov/j/drl/rls/hrrpt/humanrightsreport/]	The family court may, upon request, issue an exemption from this rule if the petitioner has reached the age of 16 and their future spouse is of legal age. [Source: http://buergerliches-gesetzbuch.net/paragraph-1303 http://buergerliches-gesetzbuch.net/paragraph-1303]
Ghana	The minimum legal age for marriage for both sexes is 18 years. Forced child marriage, while illegal, remained a problem. Child marriage nationwide was 27 percent in 2011, the latest year for which data was available. Child marriage was most prevalent in Upper East Region (39 percent), Western Region (37 percent), and Upper West Region (36 percent). There were no government prevention or mitigation efforts, including through a national action plan or community-based programs.	Source: Department of State Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2015 http://www.state.gov/j/drl/rls/hrrpt/humanrightsreport/]	

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Greece	The legal age for marriage is 18. While official statistics were unavailable, NGOs reported that child marriage was common in the small Romani community, with Romani girls often marrying between the ages of 15 and 17 (some as young as 13) and Romani boys marrying between the ages of 15 and 20. State-appointed muftis in Thrace noted that the marriage of children under the age of 15 was not allowed and that marriages involving minors between the ages of 16 and 18 required a prosecutor's decision. There were a limited number of marriages of children under 18 in Athens and among the Muslim minority, performed with the permission of a prosecutor.	Source: Department of State Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2015 http://www.state.gov/j/drl/rls/hrrpt/humanrightsreport/]	
Grenada	The legal minimum age for marriage is 21, although persons as young as 18 can be married with parental consent in writing. There was no data on marriages of persons under the age of 18.	Source: Department of State Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2015 http://www.state.gov/j/drl/rls/hrrpt/humanrightsreport/]	
Guatemala	The minimum legal age for marriage is 18. In November, Congress eliminated a provision that previously allowed girls to marry at 14 and boys at 16 with parental consent. There were credible reports of forced early marriages in some rural indigenous communities. UNICEF's 2012 State of the World's Children reported 35 percent of women 20 to 24 years of age were first married or in union by age 18 (8 percent of them by age 15). In an effort to identify cases of early and forced marriage, the government has instituted nationwide trainings and protocols to encourage public employees to report pregnancies and childbirth among underage mothers. Because of this program, in June, Almolonga Mayor Leonel Lopez was stripped of his immunity and placed under investigation for authorizing the marriage of a 12-year-old girl to a 23-year-old man after she gave birth. This was the first time an official was stripped of immunity in a child marriage case.	Source: Department of State Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2015 http://www.state.gov/j/drl/rls/hrrpt/humanrightsreport/]	
Guinea	The legal age for marriage is 21 for men and 17 for women, but tradition permits marriage at age 14. Early marriage was a problem. According to the UNFPA, 63 percent of women ages 20 to 24 were married before age 18. Parents contracted marriages for girls as young as age 10 in Middle Guinea and the Forest Region. According to the Inter-African Committee on Traditional Practices, forced marriage of women and girls was common. There were no reported prosecutions related to child marriage during the year, although OPROGEM investigated one case of forced marriage.	Source: Department of State Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2015 http://www.state.gov/j/drl/rls/hrrpt/humanrightsreport/]	
Guinea-Bissau	The legal minimum age of marriage is 17. According to UNICEF, 7 percent of girls were married or in a union before age 15. Early and forced marriage occurred among all ethnic groups. Girls who fled arranged marriages often were trafficked into commercial sex. The buying and selling of child brides also occurred. There were no government efforts to mitigate the problem. Organizations such as the Millennium Development Goals Achievement Fund worked to provide legal, social, medical, and educational services to fight child marriage and protect its victims in some locations. Working with the NGO Tostan, 144 communities in 2012 and early 2013 publicly declared their abandonment of child marriage. Tostan continued to implement its Community Empowerment program, discussing child marriage and other harmful traditional practices in partnership with the government, UNICEF, the UNFPA, and local NGOs.	Source: Department of State Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2015 http://www.state.gov/j/drl/rls/hrrpt/humanrightsreport/]	
Guyana	The legal age for marriage is 18 years, but boys and girls may marry at 16 years of age with parental consent or judicial authority. December 2013 data from the UN Children's Fund reported that 23 percent of women were married before the age of 18 years.	Source: Department of State Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2015 http://www.state.gov/j/drl/rls/hrrpt/humanrightsreport/]	

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Haiti	The legal age of marriage is 18 years. No data were available regarding early and forced marriage, but early marriage was not a widespread custom.	Source: Department of State Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2015 http://www.state.gov/j/drl/rls/hrrpt/humanrigh/tsreport/]	
Honduras	The minimum legal age for marriage for male and female citizens is 21, although with parental consent boys may marry as young as age 18 and girls as young as age 16. According to government statistics, 10 percent of women marry before age 15, 37 percent before age 18, and 56 percent before age 20.	Source: Department of State Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2015 http://www.state.gov/j/drl/rls/hrrpt/humanrigh/tsreport/]	
Hungary	The legal minimum age of marriage is 18. The Social and Guardianship Office may authorize marriages of persons between the ages of 16 and 18.	Source: Department of State Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2015 http://www.state.gov/j/drl/rls/hrrpt/humanrigh/tsreport/]	
Iceland	The country's minimum age for marriage is 18 for both sexes.	Source: Department of State Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2015 http://www.state.gov/j/drl/rls/hrrpt/humanrigh/tsreport/]	
India	The law sets the legal age of marriage for women at 18 and men at 21, and it empowers courts to annul child marriages. It also sets penalties for persons who perform, arrange, or participate in such marriages. Authorities did not consistently enforce the law. According to a 2014 NCRB report, the most violations of the Prohibition of Child Marriage Act occurred in Tamil Nadu at 47, Karnataka at 44, and Kerala at 19. Some religiously based personal laws allow marriages at an age earlier than the general law. The law does not characterize a marriage between a girl below age 18 and a boy below age 21 as "illegal," but it recognizes such unions as voidable, providing grounds for challenging them in court. Only the party who was a minor at the time of marriage may seek nullification. If the party is still a minor, his or her guardian must file a petition for nullification. A party may also file upon becoming an adult but must do so within two years. According to international and local NGOs, these limitations effectively left married minors with no legal remedy in most situations. The law establishes a full-time child-marriage prohibition officer in every state to prevent and police child marriage. These individuals have the power to intervene when a child marriage is taking place, document violations of the law, file charges against parents, remove children from dangerous situations, and deliver them to local child-protection authorities. UNICEF's State of the World's Children 2015 report noted 47 percent of girls married before age 18. According to the report, women married as children contributed to the country's high infant and maternal mortality rates, and observers suspected that early motherhood contributed to the deaths of 6,000 adolescent	Source: Department of State Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2015 http://www.state.gov/j/drl/rls/hrrpt/humanrigh/tsreport/]	

	<p>mothers each year. A national family health survey showed that one in six girls between the ages of 15 and 19 had become pregnant at least once.</p>		
Indonesia	<p>The legal distinction between a woman and a girl was not clear. The law sets the minimum marriageable age at 16 for a woman (19 for a man), but the Child Protection Law states that persons under age 18 are children. A girl who marries has adult legal status. Girls frequently married before reaching the age of 16, particularly in rural and impoverished areas. A 2014 UNICEF report found that approximately 25 percent of women married before they reached age 18.</p>	<p>Source: Department of State Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2015 http://www.state.gov/j/drl/rls/hrrpt/humanrightsreport/]</p>	
Iran	<p>The legal minimum age of marriage for girls is 13, but girls as young as nine may be married with permission from the court and their father. The law requires court approval for the marriage of boys younger than 15. According to the newspaper Shahrvand, there were more than 40,000 registered marriages for girls under the age of 15 in 2014. The number may be higher because NGOs reported that many families did not register underage marriages. On October 13, authorities executed juvenile offender Fatemeh Salbehi for the killing of her husband, whom she was forced to marry at 16.</p>	<p>Source: Department of State Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2015 http://www.state.gov/j/drl/rls/hrrpt/humanrightsreport/]</p>	
Iraq	<p>By law the minimum age of marriage is 15 with parental permission and 18 without. The government made few efforts to enforce the law. Traditional forced marriages of girls as young as age 11 continued, particularly in rural areas. According to UNICEF, 6 percent of girls were married by 15, and 24 percent were married by 18. Girls between the ages of 11 and 18 told UNICEF that early marriage was the primary obstacle to completing their education. Early and forced marriages, as well as abusive temporary marriages, were more prevalent in Da'esh-controlled areas. In February HRW interviewed 20 Yezidi women and girls who escaped from Da'esh captivity; nearly all said that they had been forced into marriage, sold (in some cases a number of times), or given as gifts. Local and international NGOs reported that forced divorce--the practice of husbands or their families threatening to divorce wives they married when the girls were very young (ages 12 to 16) to pressure the girl's family to provide additional money to the girl's husband and his family--also occurred, particularly in the south. Victims of forced divorce were compelled to leave their husbands and their husbands' families, and social customs regarding family honor often prevented victims from returning to their families, leaving some adolescent girls abandoned.</p>	<p>Source: Department of State Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2015 http://www.state.gov/j/drl/rls/hrrpt/humanrightsreport/]</p>	

Ireland	The legal minimum age for marriage is 18 years. Persons under 18 must obtain the permission of the Circuit Family Court or the High Court to marry.	Source: Department of State Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2015 http://www.state.gov/j/drl/rls/hrrpt/humanrightsreport/]	
Israel	The law sets the minimum age of marriage at 18, with some exceptions for younger children due to pregnancy and for couples older than 16 if the court permitted it due to unique circumstances.	Source: Department of State Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2015 http://www.state.gov/j/drl/rls/hrrpt/humanrightsreport/]	
Italy	The minimum age for marriage is 18, but juvenile courts may authorize marriages for individuals as young as 16. During the year a study estimated that 2,000 girls born in the country were forced to marry men in their countries of origin, mostly in Bangladesh, Pakistan, India, and Sri Lanka.	Source: Department of State Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2015 http://www.state.gov/j/drl/rls/hrrpt/humanrightsreport/]	
Ivory Coast	The law prohibits the marriage of men under the age of 20 and women under the age of 18 without parental consent. The law specifically penalizes anyone who forces a minor under age 18 to enter a religious or customary matrimonial union. Nevertheless, traditional marriages were performed with girls as young as 14. The UN documented several cases of forced marriage and attempted forced marriage during the year.	Source: Department of State Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2015 http://www.state.gov/j/drl/rls/hrrpt/humanrightsreport/]	
Jamaica	The legal minimum age for marriage is 18, but children may marry at 16 with parental consent.	Source: Department of State Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2015 http://www.state.gov/j/drl/rls/hrrpt/humanrightsreport/]	
Japan	The law stipulates that to marry, the male partner must be age 18 or older and the female partner, 16 or older. A person under 20 may not marry without at least one parent's approval.	Source: Department of State Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2015 http://www.state.gov/j/drl/rls/hrrpt/humanrightsreport/]	
Jordan	The minimum age for marriage is 18. With the consent of both a judge and a guardian, a child as young as 15 years old, in most cases a girl, may be married. The sharia court reported that early marriages comprised 13 percent of all marriages registered in 2014, with the early marriage rate among registered Syrian refugee's marriages at 31.4 percent in the first quarter of 2014. There was no data available on the number of unregistered marriages, but, due to the differences between the Jordanian and Syrian legal and social framework, it was likely that many Syrian refugee marriages were not registered.	Source: Department of State Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2015 http://www.state.gov/j/drl/rls/hrrpt/humanrightsreport/]	

Kazakhstan	<p>The legal minimum age for marriage is 18, but it may be reduced to 16 in the case of pregnancy or mutual agreement. NGOs noted several cases of marriage under 18, especially in the south. According to the NGO League of Women of Creative Initiative, 2,000-3,000 early and forced marriages occur annually. According to the NGO, there were approximately 2,200 such marriages in 2014. The majority of these were due to cultural traditions. Many couples first married in mosques and then registered officially when the bride reached the legal age. The government did not take any action to address the issue. As reported in September, the Spiritual Administration of Muslims of Kazakhstan issued an order forbidding mosques to conduct religious marriage rites (nikah) without an official marriage certificate, but the practice continued.</p>	<p>Source: Department of State Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2015 http://www.state.gov/j/drl/rls/hrrpt/humanrightsreport/]</p>	
Kenya	<p>The Protection against Domestic Violence Act criminalizes early and forced marriage. The media frequently highlighted the problem of early and forced marriage, which some ethnic groups commonly practiced. In 2014 the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) released a study reporting that 6 percent of children were married by age 15, and 26 percent by age 18. Regionally, Kilifi town had the highest prevalence of child marriage at 47.4 percent, followed by Homa Bay at 38 percent, Kwale at 37.9 percent, Bondo at 29.5 percent, and Tharaka at 25.3 percent. There was a strong correlation between poverty and early and forced marriage. A report by the UN Population Fund indicated that early and forced marriage increased during conflicts or after natural disasters because families sought to benefit economically from or offer alternative financial security for young daughters. In 2014 the National Assembly passed a marriage act that prohibits engagement, betrothal, or marriage by or to any person less than age 18 and voids marriages that violate these prohibitions. Under the constitution, however, the qadi courts retained jurisdiction over Muslim marriage and family law.</p>	<p>Source: Department of State Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2015 http://www.state.gov/j/drl/rls/hrrpt/humanrightsreport/]</p>	
Kiribati	<p>The legal minimum age for marriage is 21, or 17 with the permission of a parent or guardian. According to Family Planning International, the median age of marriage for women was 20. The 2010 census estimated 9 percent of persons between the ages of 14 and 19 were married.</p>	<p>Source: Department of State Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2015 http://www.state.gov/j/drl/rls/hrrpt/humanrightsreport/]</p>	
Kosovo	<p>The law allows persons to marry at age 16. Child marriage was rare but continued to take place in certain communities, including Kosovo Roma, Kosovo Ashkali, Kosovo Egyptians, and Kosovo Gorani. According to a separate MICS that focused on these communities, 11.6 percent of children, mostly girls, married before the age of 15. The Ministry of Local Government Administration and the Agency for Gender Equality in the prime minister's office conducted information campaigns to discourage early marriage.</p>	<p>Source: Department of State Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2015 http://www.state.gov/j/drl/rls/hrrpt/humanrightsreport/]</p>	
Kuwait	<p>The legal marriage age is 17 for men and 15 for women, but girls continued to marry at a younger age in some tribal groups. The Ministry of Justice estimated underage marriages constituted 2 to 3 percent of all marriages in 2013.</p>	<p>Source: Department of State Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2015 http://www.state.gov/j/drl/rls/hrrpt/humanrightsreport/]</p>	
Kyrgyzstan	<p>Children ages 16 and 17 may legally marry with the consent of local authorities, but the law prohibits marriage before the age 16 under all circumstances. Although illegal, the practice of bride kidnapping continued (see section 6, Women). The kidnapping of underage brides remained underreported. In 2014, the UN Population Fund reported 14 percent of women in the country, mainly in rural areas, married while under age 16. An HRW report found government inaction in monitoring or addressing bride kidnapping or other forms of early and forced marriage.</p>	<p>Source: Department of State Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2015 http://www.state.gov/j/drl/rls/hrrpt/humanrightsreport/]</p>	<p>Women after reached puberty may marry, but requires parental consent. UNPD_Inquiry on Population and Development_2003[Source http://data.un.org/]</p>

Laos	The legal minimum age of marriage for boys and girls is 18 years, but the law allows underage marriage in special and necessary cases, often in cases of underage pregnancy. Cultural norms of some ethnic groups contributed to 35.4 percent of girls marrying before they reached 18 years and 9 percent marrying before attaining 15 years.	Source: Department of State Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2015 http://www.state.gov/j/drl/rls/hrrpt/humanrightsreport/]	
Latvia	The legal minimum age for marriage is 18 years. Persons younger than age 18 may legally marry only with parental permission and if one party is at least 16 and the other is at least 18.	Source: Department of State Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2015 http://www.state.gov/j/drl/rls/hrrpt/humanrightsreport/]	
Lebanon	The legal age for marriage is 18 for men and 17 for women. Family matters are governed by confessionally determined personal status law, and minimum ages acceptable for marriage differ accordingly. UNHCR reported early and forced marriage was common in the Syrian refugee community. According to a study conducted by the Heartland Alliance in 2014, the marriages were not official but usually endorsed by sheikhs in the refugee community, often encouraged with a bribe. These sheikhs were not linked to the country's Sunni family courts, and the marriages had no legal standing.	Source: Department of State Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2015 http://www.state.gov/j/drl/rls/hrrpt/humanrightsreport/]	
Lesotho	The Children's Protection and Welfare Act defines a child as a person under age 18. Under the Marriage Act of 1974, however, a girl can marry at age 16 while a boy can do so at age 18. The act states that "if the girl is 16 years of age, but is not yet 21, parental consent is required" for marriage. Customary law does not set a minimum age for marriage. According to UN Population Fund data collected between 2000 and 2011, an estimated 19 percent of women between the ages of 20 and 24 were married before age 18.	Source: Department of State Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2015 http://www.state.gov/j/drl/rls/hrrpt/humanrightsreport/]	
Liberia	The 2011 National Children's Act sets the marriage age for all persons at 18 years, while the Domestic Relations Act sets the minimum marriage age at 21 for men and 18 for women. The Equal Rights of the Traditional Marriage Act of 1998 permits a girl to marry at age 16. In partnership with international donors, the government operated a free alternative basic education program which, for those unable to access formal education, taught life skills such as health, hygiene, birth control, and the merits of delayed marriage. During the year, the government distributed to those enrolled in formal education a parent-teacher association manual promoting delayed marriage. Mass media campaigns were conducted in target communities, especially in rural areas, to educate citizens about the negative consequences of child marriage. Nevertheless, underage marriage remained a problem, especially in rural areas. According to a 2015 UNICEF report, 11 percent of women ages 20 to 24 were married by age 15 and 38 percent were married by age 18.	Source: Department of State Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2015 http://www.state.gov/j/drl/rls/hrrpt/humanrightsreport/]	
Libya	The minimum age for marriage is 18 years old for both men and women, although judges can provide permission for those under 18 to marry. There were no available statistics on the rate of early and forced marriage during the year.	Source: Department of State Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2015 http://www.state.gov/j/drl/rls/hrrpt/humanrightsreport/]	
Liechtenstein	The legal minimum age of marriage for both girls and boys is 18 years.	Source: Department of State Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2015 http://www.state.gov/j/drl/rls/hrrpt/humanrightsreport/]	

		tsreport/]	
Lithuania		Source: Department of State Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2015 http://www.state.gov/j/drl/rls/hrrpt/humanrightsreport/]	Women and men who have reached the age of 14 may marry only with parental consent UNPD_Inquiry on Population and Development_2003[Source http://data.un.org/]
Luxembourg	The minimum legal age of marriage is 18 for men and 16 for women, provided one of the partners is a resident of the country. Permission of at least one parent is required if one of the partners is under 16. Statistics regarding marriage rates for individuals younger than 18 were not available.	Source: Department of State Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2015 http://www.state.gov/j/drl/rls/hrrpt/humanrightsreport/]	
Macedonia	The minimum legal age for marriage is 18. A court may issue a marriage license to persons between the ages of 16 and 18 if it finds them mentally and physically fit for marriage. Early and forced marriage occurred in the Romani community and, to a much lesser extent, Albanian communities. It was difficult to estimate the number of early and forced marriages because they were rarely registered. Government plans for improving the social inclusion of the Romani population included measures to prevent underage marriage, including mandatory high school education, special social and community services and school counseling and outreach, and improved access to basic-level health services.	Source: Department of State Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2015 http://www.state.gov/j/drl/rls/hrrpt/humanrightsreport/]	

Madagascar	<p>The legal age for marriage without parental consent is 18 years for both boys and girls. Nevertheless, according to the UN Population Fund, child marriage remained very common, particularly in rural areas and in the south. An estimated 48 percent of women between ages 20 and 24 were married before 18, and 14 percent were married before 15, according to 2000-09 UNICEF data. As confirmed by the UN special rapporteur on modern forms of slavery during her mission to the country in 2012, early forced marriage remained a concern in many communities, where parents forced girls as young as age 10 to marry. She noted, "Victims of such arrangements are also likely to be victims of domestic servitude and sexual slavery." In collaboration with UNICEF and UNFPA, the government launched a national campaign in June to raise awareness about the dangers of early marriage. In December 2014 the government passed updated antitrafficking legislation that broadens the scope of the previous legislation to cover sexual exploitation, labor trafficking, forced labor, forced begging, and debt bondage. Penalties for trafficking offenses range from two to five years' imprisonment and a fine of one to 10 million ariary (\$304 to \$ 3,040). Trafficking crimes against children are punishable by five to 10 years' imprisonment and a fine of two million to 10 million ariary (\$608 to \$3,040). According to a 2013 report by the UN special rapporteur, the practice of "moletry," in which girls are married off at a younger age in exchange for oxen received as a dowry, continued. The parents of a boy (usually around age 15) look for a spouse for their son (girls may be as young as age 12), after which the parents of both children organize the wedding. The parents hold a written agreement for one year that they may prolong. If a child is born after the first year and the marriage contract has expired, the girl--or, if she is very young, her mother--will be responsible for raising the child. If the girl has been unfaithful or the marriage does not last the full year, parents return the dowry, without any stigma for either side. The wife must stay the contracted year, even in the case of domestic violence, in which case the girl's parents receive more money or jewels. The UN special rapporteur also criticized the practice of "valifoto," or arranged marriage. She noted in places like Ihorombe, in the Bara community, when a girl reaches age 10, she is separated from other family members and may receive male visitors without obtaining approval from her male relatives. In the Bara community, the parents betroth a girl at birth, and the parents receive 10 oxen. The man may take the girl at age seven or ask her parents to raise her until she is age 12, at which time parents take her to the husband's home.</p>	<p>Source: Department of State Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2015 http://www.state.gov/j/drl/rls/hrrpt/humanrightsreport/]</p>	
Malawi	<p>The Marriage, Divorce, and Family Relations Act sets the minimum age for marriage at 18, but the constitution allows marriage at age 15 with parental consent. According to the 2014 Malawi Millennium Development Goal Endline Survey, 10.3 percent of girls and women ages 15 to 49 were first married or in a union before age 15, and 49.9 percent were married or in a union before age 18. The minimum marital age was not widely enforced, and civic education on early marriage was carried out mainly by NGOs.</p>	<p>Source: Department of State Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2015 http://www.state.gov/j/drl/rls/hrrpt/humanrightsreport/]</p>	
Malaysia	<p>The minimum age of marriage is 18 years for men and 16 years for women. Muslim women younger than 16 years may marry with the approval of a sharia court. Accurate statistics on early marriages were difficult to obtain, but a 2014 United Nations Population Fund report stated that more than 15,000 citizens married before age 19 in 2014. In October the Ministry of Women, Family, and Community Development reported it had set up a task force to help regulate early marriages and limit abuses.</p>	<p>Source: Department of State Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2015 http://www.state.gov/j/drl/rls/hrrpt/humanrightsreport/]</p>	
Maldives	<p>The law allows girls and boys under age 18 to marry if they have reached puberty, have parental consent, and the court finds no substantial reason to object to the union. In 2013, 18 underage marriages were registered at the court, of which 16 involved girls and two involved boys, a sharp drop from 2012. According to the NGO Hope for Women, child marriage was often endorsed by Islamic scholars invited to speak at government-organized public events and on television and radio.</p>	<p>Source: Department of State Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2015 http://www.state.gov/j/drl/rls/hrrpt/humanrightsreport/]</p>	

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Mali	The minimum age to marry without parental consent is 16 for girls and 18 for boys. A 15-year-old girl may marry with parental consent if a civil judge approves. Authorities did not effectively enforce the law, particularly in rural areas, and underage marriage was a problem throughout the country. According to the UN Population Fund, 55 percent of women between ages 20 and 24 were married by age 18. In some regions of the country, girls married as young as age 10. It was common practice in the country for a 14-year-old girl to marry a man twice her age. According to local human rights organizations, judicial officials frequently accepted false birth certificates or other documents claiming that girls under age 15 were old enough to marry. NGOs implemented awareness campaigns aimed at abating child marriage.	Source: Department of State Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2015 http://www.state.gov/j/drl/rls/hrrpt/humanrigh/tsreport/]	
Malta	The legal minimum age of marriage is 18, although persons between the ages of 16 and 18 may marry with the consent of parents, legal guardians, or courts.	Source: Department of State Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2015 http://www.state.gov/j/drl/rls/hrrpt/humanrigh/tsreport/]	
Marshall Islands	The legal minimum age for marriage is 18 years for men and 16 years for women. There were no government programs to address or prevent early marriage. According to the UN Population Fund database, 26.3 percent of women aged 20-24 years married before 18 years of age. Forced marriage was not practiced.	Source: Department of State Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2015 http://www.state.gov/j/drl/rls/hrrpt/humanrigh/tsreport/]	
Mauritania	The legal marriage age is 18, but authorities rarely enforced the law, and child marriage was widespread. Since consensual sex outside of marriage is illegal, a legal guardian can ask local authorities to permit a girl younger than 18 to marry. Local authorities frequently granted permission. Nevertheless, the government continued to work with UNICEF to implement a program to combat child marriage through judicial and political reforms. It also cooperated with civil society to disseminate the personal status code, which sets the minimum age for marrying at 18 and requires a woman's consent to seal a union. These efforts appeared to show encouraging results. According to UNICEF in 2011 (the most recent data available), the percentage of children who were married before age 15 dropped from 19 to 15 percent, while the percentage of those married before age 18 fell from 43 to 35 percent.	Source: Department of State Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2015 http://www.state.gov/j/drl/rls/hrrpt/humanrigh/tsreport/]	
Mauritius	The minimum legal marriage age for boys and girls is 16 years with parental consent. Forced or early marriages were not reported to be problems.	Source: Department of State Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2015 http://www.state.gov/j/drl/rls/hrrpt/humanrigh/tsreport/]	Women and men who have reached the age of 16 may marry only with parental consent.UNDAW_CEDAW Country Reports_Aug2007 [Source http://data.un.org/]

Mexico	The legal minimum marriage age is 18. Enforcement, however, was inconsistent across the states, where some civil codes permit a minimum marital age of 14 for girls and 16 for boys with parental consent, and 18 without parental consent. With a judge's consent, children can be married at younger ages.	Source: Department of State Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2015 http://www.state.gov/j/drl/rls/hrrpt/humanrightsreport/]	
Micronesia	The minimum legal age for marriage is 18 years for boys and 16 years for girls, except girls younger than 16 years may marry with parental consent.	Source: Department of State Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2015 http://www.state.gov/j/drl/rls/hrrpt/humanrightsreport/]	
Moldova	The legal minimum age for marriage is 16 for women and 18 for men. There were no official statistics regarding child marriages.	Source: Department of State Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2015 http://www.state.gov/j/drl/rls/hrrpt/humanrightsreport/]	
Monaco	The legal minimum age of marriage in the country is 18 for women and men. Women and men under the age of 18 need parental authorization to marry. There were no data available on the number of underage marriages.	Source: Department of State Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2015 http://www.state.gov/j/drl/rls/hrrpt/humanrightsreport/]	
Mongolia	The legal minimum age for marriage is 18 for all persons, and there were no reports of underage marriages.	Source: Department of State Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2015 http://www.state.gov/j/drl/rls/hrrpt/humanrightsreport/]	
Montenegro	The minimum legal age for marriage is 18 in most cases, but persons as young as 16 may marry with the consent of a court if it finds them mentally and physically fit for marriage. Child marriage was a serious problem, particularly in the Romani and Balkan Egyptian communities. According to a survey by the NGO Center for Roma Initiatives, 70 per cent of the Romani population aged 12-18 entered into arranged marriages. Authorities considered such common law marriages illegal. Punishment for arranging forced marriages ranges from six months to five years in prison. Romani NGOs claimed that families paid dowries of 4,000 to 15,000 euros (\$4,400 to \$16,500) for child brides. NGOs reported that parents of some girls sold them into marriage, including to foreigners. The custom of buying or selling virgin brides continued in the Romani, Ashkali, and Balkan Egyptian communities; grooms reportedly paid between 1,000 to 10,000 euros (\$1,100 to \$11,000). The government implemented measures to prevent underage marriage, including enforcing mandatory school education and prosecuting persons who arranged early marriages. During the first nine months of the year, courts issued three prison sentences and two suspended sentences to persons convicted of arranging early marriages.	Source: Department of State Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2015 http://www.state.gov/j/drl/rls/hrrpt/humanrightsreport/]	

Morocco	The legal age for marriage is 18, but parents, with informed consent of the minor, may secure a waiver from a judge for underage marriage. The judiciary approved the vast majority of petitions for underage marriages. Child marriage remained a concern.	Source: Department of State Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2015 http://www.state.gov/j/drl/rls/hrrpt/humanrightsreport/]	
Mozambique	The law sets the minimum age to marry for persons of both genders at 18. Legal permission to marry at age 16 may be granted with parental consent if "circumstances of recognized public and family interest," such as pregnancy, exist. According to a 2015 UNICEF report, nationwide 48 percent of young women ages 20-24 married before age 18. Fourteen percent of women ages 20-24 married before age 15. The highest rates of early marriage were in the northern provinces of Cabo Delgado and Nampula, where 61 percent and 62 percent of women were married before age 18, respectively. In Niassa, another northern province, 24 percent of young women married before age 15, the highest rate in the country. The government and local NGOs continued to promote a public awareness campaign under the motto "Marry? Only at 18 years of age!" to discourage early and forced marriage. The government and its partners collaborated on a National Strategy for the Prevention and Combating of Early Marriage (2015-2019).	Source: Department of State Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2015 http://www.state.gov/j/drl/rls/hrrpt/humanrightsreport/]	
Namibia	The law prohibits civil marriages before age 18 for both boys and girls. The Child Care and Protection Act prohibits customary marriage before age 18, but it did occur.	Source: Department of State Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2015 http://www.state.gov/j/drl/rls/hrrpt/humanrightsreport/]	
Nauru	The legal minimum age of marriage is 18 years for boys and 16 years for girls. Children younger than the legal minimum age need written consent of their parents to marry. UNICEF reported that from 2002-12, approximately 30 percent of girls married before age 18 years. There were no known government efforts to prevent the traditional practice of early marriage.	Source: Department of State Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2015 http://www.state.gov/j/drl/rls/hrrpt/humanrightsreport/]	
Nepal	The law prohibits marriage for girls before the age of 18. While families in many areas sometimes forced their young children to marry, the rate of early and forced marriage decreased since 2002. According to a UNICEF survey published in January, the prevalence of early and forced marriage remained high. Nearly 49 percent of women ages 20 to 49 were married or in a union before age 18, while 15.5 percent of women ages 15 to 49 were married or in a union before age 15. According to the same study, 24.5 percent of women ages 15 to 19 were married or in a union. Social, economic, and cultural values promoted the practice of early and forced marriages, especially common in the Dalit and Madhesi communities. The law sets penalties for violations according to the age of the girls involved in child marriage. The penalty includes both a prison sentence and fine, with the fees collected going to the girl involved. The civil code provides that the government must take action whenever a case of child marriage is filed with authorities. The government worked with local child rights groups and international donors on the problem of early and forced marriage though cases often were unreported. A number of government child protection and welfare programs, such as scholarship programs targeting girls, attempted to encourage girls to stay in school.	Source: Department of State Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2015 http://www.state.gov/j/drl/rls/hrrpt/humanrightsreport/]	20 Male 20 Female - Women and men who have reached the age of 18 may marry only with parental consent UNPD_Inquiry on Population and Development_2003 [Source http://data.un.org/]

Netherlands	The legal minimum age of marriage is 18 in all parts of the kingdom. In the Netherlands and Aruba, there are two exceptions: if the persons concerned are older than 16 and the woman is pregnant or has given birth or the Minister of Security and Justice grants a dispensation based on their request. Underage marriages were rare. The government began implementing an action program, Self Determination 2015--2017, under which authorities were allocated one million euros (\$1.1 million) annually to counter forced marriage and honor-related violence.	Source: Department of State Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2015 http://www.state.gov/j/drl/rls/hrrpt/humanrightsreport/]	
New Zealand	The legal minimum age for marriage is 20 for both men and women, but persons ages 16-19 may marry with parental permission. Marriages involving persons under age 18 were rare.	Source: Department of State Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2015 http://www.state.gov/j/drl/rls/hrrpt/humanrightsreport/]	
Nicaragua	The minimum legal age for marriage is 18 years for girls and boys; with parental authorization, it is 16 through 18. There were credible reports of forced early marriages in some rural indigenous communities. UNICEF's 2013 State of the World's Children reported that 41 percent of women 20 to 24 years of age were first married or in a union by age 18 (10 percent of them by age 15). No information was available on government efforts to address or prevent forced and early marriage, and some advocates claimed the government did not enforce the law effectively.	Source: Department of State Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2015 http://www.state.gov/j/drl/rls/hrrpt/humanrightsreport/]	
Niger	The law allows a girl deemed to be "sufficiently mature" to marry at 15. Some families entered into marriage agreements under which rural girls 12 or even younger were sent to their husband's families to be under the "supervision" of their mothers-in-law. According to UN Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA), 28 percent of women ages 20-24 married before age 15 and 76 percent married before age 18. According to the 2012 DHS, 36 percent of women 20-24 years old were first married or in union before they were 15 years old. Prevalence of child marriage was highest in the south, in the Diffa, Zinder, Maradi, and Tahoua regions. The Ministry of Population, Women's Promotion, and Children's Protection cooperated with women's associations to sensitize traditional chiefs and religious leaders in rural communities to the problem of early marriage. The UNFPA was working at the community level with the Association of Traditional Chiefs to raise awareness of the problem, including the risk of maternal death and disability. According to the 2012 DHS, 44.8 percent of women 20-49 years old had given birth before they were 18 years old, and 8.7 percent of girls had given birth before they were 15 years old.	Source: Department of State Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2015 http://www.state.gov/j/drl/rls/hrrpt/humanrightsreport/]	UNDAW_CEDAW Country Reports_Aug2007 38th session country report. Requires parental consent for minors. [Source http://data.un.org/]
Nigeria	The law sets a minimum age of 18 years for marriage for both boys and girls. According to the 2013 NDHS, 43 percent of women between ages 20 and 24 reported being married or in a union before age 18, and 17 percent reported being married or in a union before age 15. Fewer than half the country's state assemblies adopted the Child Rights Act of 2003, which sets the minimum marriage age, and most states, especially northern states, did not uphold the federal official minimum age for marriage. The government engaged religious leaders, emirs, and sultans on the problem, pointing out the health hazards and improving their awareness of it. Certain states worked with NGO programs to establish school subsidies or fee waivers for children to help protect against early marriage. The government did not take legal steps to end sales of young girls into marriage. According to credible reports, poor families sold their daughters into marriage to supplement their incomes. Families sometimes forced young girls into marriage as early as puberty, regardless of age, to prevent "indecent" associated with premarital sex or for other cultural and religious reasons. Girls abducted by Boko Haram were also subjected to forced marriage.	Source: Department of State Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2015 http://www.state.gov/j/drl/rls/hrrpt/humanrightsreport/]	

North Korea	The law provides that the minimum ages for marriage are 18 for men and 17 for women.	Source: Department of State Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2015 http://www.state.gov/j/drl/rls/hrrpt/humanrightsreport/]	
Norway	The minimum legal age for marriage in the country is 18 for both women and men, although a 16-year-old child may marry with the consent of parents or guardians and permission from the county governor. The county governor may give permission only when there are "special reasons for contracting a marriage."	Source: Department of State Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2015 http://www.state.gov/j/drl/rls/hrrpt/humanrightsreport/]	
Oman	The age of legal marriage for men and women is 18 years, although a judge may permit a person to marry younger when the judge or family deemed the marriage was in the minor's interest. Child marriage occurred in rural communities as a traditional practice.	Source: Department of State Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2015 http://www.state.gov/j/drl/rls/hrrpt/humanrightsreport/]	
Pakistan	Despite legal prohibitions child marriages occurred. The law sets the legal age of marriage at 18 for men and 16 for women and prescribes punishment for violators of imprisonment for up to a month, a fine of 1,000 rupees (\$9.90), or both. In March 2014 the Council of Islamic Ideology declared the marriage laws to be un-Islamic and noted they were "unfair and there cannot be any legal age of marriage." The council stated that Islam does not prohibit underage marriage since it allows the consummation of marriage after both partners reach puberty. Many young girls and women were victims of forced marriages arranged by their families. Although forced marriage is a criminal offense and many cases were filed, prosecution remained a problem. In 2012 the Family Planning Association of Pakistan estimated that child marriages constituted 30 percent of marriages. In rural areas poor parents sometimes sold their daughters into marriage, in some cases to settle debts or disputes (see section 6). In 2013 Sindh passed the Early Child Marriage Act, which criminalizes marriages to children under the age of 16. Despite this legislation Sindh has not effectively stopped the practice of early child marriage. On October 19, Sukkur police recovered three missing girls from a village in northern Sindh, who claimed local authorities married them to men in the village against their free will. The Punjab provincial assembly passed a law in March increasing the penalties for parents and clerics who assisted in marriages between children, although the law left the legal minimum age for women to marry at 16 years of age.	Source: Department of State Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2015 http://www.state.gov/j/drl/rls/hrrpt/humanrightsreport/]	
Palau	Citizens may legally marry after age 16, but they must obtain their parents' permission until age 18. Although no statistics were available on the occurrence of marriages by persons younger than 18 years, a nongovernmental organization (NGO) reported that underage marriage was not a problem.	Source: Department of State Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2015 http://www.state.gov/j/drl/rls/hrrpt/humanrightsreport/]	
Palestinian territories	Palestinian law defines the minimum age for marriage as 18; however, religious law allows persons as young as 15 years old to marry. Child marriage did not appear to be widespread, according to NGOs, including the Women's Center for Legal Aid and Counseling. According to UNICEF data for the year, 2 percent of girls were married by the age of 15.	Source: Department of State Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2015 http://www.state.gov/j/drl/rls/hrrpt/humanrightsreport/]	

Panama	The minimum legal age for marriage is 18. During the year the government amended the law to remove provisions permitting an earlier age of marriage with parental permission.	Source: Department of State Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2015 http://www.state.gov/j/drl/rls/hrrpt/humanrightsreport/]	
Papua New Guinea	The legal age for marriage is 18 for boys and 16 for girls. There is a lower legal marriage age (16 for boys and 14 for girls) with parental and court consent. Customary and traditional practices allow marriage of children as young as age 12, and early marriage was common in many traditional, isolated rural communities. Child brides frequently were taken as additional wives or given as brides to pay family debts and often were used as domestic servants. Child brides were particularly vulnerable to domestic abuse. Lack of resources and access to remote regions hampered the government's ability to take steps to prevent child marriages and enforce the law.	Source: Department of State Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2015 http://www.state.gov/j/drl/rls/hrrpt/humanrightsreport/]	
Paraguay	The government increased the minimum legal age for marriage from 16 to 18 through a law published on May 11. Parental consent is required for those ages 16 to 18. The law permits marriage for those younger than age 16 only with judicial authorization under exceptional circumstances. Marriages were more common in indigenous and rural populations for those younger than 18. There were no reports of forced marriage.	Source: Department of State Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2015 http://www.state.gov/j/drl/rls/hrrpt/humanrightsreport/]	
Peru	The legal minimum age of marriage is 18. The law allows minors older than 16 to marry with civil judge authorization.	Source: Department of State Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2015 http://www.state.gov/j/drl/rls/hrrpt/humanrightsreport/]	
Philippines	The legal minimum age for marriage for both sexes is 18; however, anyone below 21 must have parental consent. Under Muslim personal law, Muslim boys may marry at 15, and girls may marry when they reach puberty. According to a 2012 UNFPA report, 14 percent of women age 20-24 married before the age of 18.	Source: Department of State Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2015 http://www.state.gov/j/drl/rls/hrrpt/humanrightsreport/]	
Poland	The country's legal minimum age of marriage is 18, although the guardianship court may grant permission for girls as young as age 16 to marry under certain circumstances.	Source: Department of State Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2015 http://www.state.gov/j/drl/rls/hrrpt/humanrightsreport/]	
Portugal	The minimum age for marriage is 18 for women and men, but both sexes may marry at 16 with the consent of (1) both parents exercising parental authority; (2) a guardian; or (3), in default of the latter, a court decision.	Source: Department of State Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2015 http://www.state.gov/j/drl/rls/hrrpt/humanrightsreport/]	
Qatar	By law the minimum age for marriage is 18 years for boys and 16 years for girls. The law does not permit marriage of persons below these ages except in conformity with religious and cultural norms. These norms include the need to obtain consent from the legal guardian to ensure that both prospective partners consent to the union and apply for permission from a competent court; underage	Source: Department of State Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2015 http://www.state.gov/j/drl/rls/hrrpt/humanrightsreport/]	

	marriage is very rare.	tsreport/]	
Republic of the Congo	The law prohibits child marriage, and the legal age for marriage is 18 years for women and 21 for men. Underage marriage is possible with a judge's permission and with the permission of both sets of parents; the law does not specify a minimum age in such a case. In practice many couples engaged in an informal common-law marriage not legally recognized, while grooms saved for a legally recognized traditional, court, or church wedding. According to the UN Population Fund, 33 percent of women 20 to 24 years old were married by the age of 18 in 2009, although the government expressed skepticism the percentage was so high. There is no government program focused on preventing early or forced marriage. The penalty for forced marriage between an adult and child is a prison sentence of three months to two years and a fine of 150,000 to 1.5 million CFA francs (\$260 to \$2,600).	Source: Department of State Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2015 http://www.state.gov/j/drl/rls/hrrpt/humanrightsreport/]	
Romania	The legal age of marriage is usually 18 for both boys and girls, but the law permits girls as young as 16 to marry under certain circumstances. Illegal child marriage was reportedly common in certain social groups, particularly Roma. Media occasionally reported individual cases. There were no public policies to prevent child marriage or government institutions that dealt with the problem.	Source: Department of State Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2015 http://www.state.gov/j/drl/rls/hrrpt/humanrightsreport/]	
Russia	The minimum legal age for marriage is 18 for both men and women. Local authorities may authorize marriage from the age of 16 under certain circumstances, and even earlier in some regions. In May, Novaya Gazeta reported that a 17-year-old girl had been pressured into marrying the 57-year-old police chief in Chechnya's Nozhai-Yurt district, who was already married. Chechen leader Kadyrov attended the wedding while Ombudsman Astakhov publicly defended such practices in the Caucasus.	Source: Department of State Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2015 http://www.state.gov/j/drl/rls/hrrpt/humanrightsreport/]	
Rwanda	The minimum age for marriage is 21. Anecdotal evidence suggested child marriage was more common in rural areas and refugee camps than in urban areas.	Source: Department of State Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2015 http://www.state.gov/j/drl/rls/hrrpt/humanrightsreport/]	
Saint Kitts and Nevis	The legal minimum age for marriage is 18 years for both men and women. Underage marriage was rare, and the government did not keep statistics on it.	Source: Department of State Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2015 http://www.state.gov/j/drl/rls/hrrpt/humanrightsreport/]	
Saint Lucia	The legal minimum age for marriage is 18 years for men and women, but 16 with parental consent.	Source: Department of State Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2015 http://www.state.gov/j/drl/rls/hrrpt/humanrightsreport/]	

Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	The legal minimum age for marriage is 18, and parental consent was required for underage marriage.	Source: Department of State Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2015 http://www.state.gov/j/drl/rls/hrrpt/humanrightsreport/]	
Samoa	The legal minimum age of marriage is 21 years for a man and 19 years for a woman. Consent of at least one parent or guardian is necessary if either is younger than the minimum age. Marriage is illegal if a woman is younger than 16 years or a man is younger than 18 years. Early marriage did not generally occur.	Source: Department of State Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2015 http://www.state.gov/j/drl/rls/hrrpt/humanrightsreport/]	
San Marino	The legal minimum age of marriage is 18, but a judge can authorize the marriage of minors 16 and older in special cases.	Source: Department of State Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2015 http://www.state.gov/j/drl/rls/hrrpt/humanrightsreport/]	
Sao Tome and Principe	The legal minimum age of marriage without parental consent is 18 years. The most recent available data (UNICEF, 2010) indicated that 5 percent of women then 20-24 years old had been married or were in union before age 15, and 34 percent had married or were in union before age 18.	Source: Department of State Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2015 http://www.state.gov/j/drl/rls/hrrpt/humanrightsreport/]	
Saudi Arabia	There were reports during the year of child marriage; it was almost entirely limited to rural areas. Senior government officials, including officials from the governmental HRC and the quasi-governmental NSHR, spoke out against the practice and advocated the adoption of a minimum marriage age. The law does not specify a minimum age for marriage, but sharia suggests girls may marry after reaching puberty. According to some senior religious leaders, girls as young as 10 may marry. Families sometimes arranged such marriages to settle family debts, without the consent of the child. The HRC and NSHR monitored cases of child marriages, which they reported were rare or at least rarely reported, and took steps to prevent them from being consummated. Media reports quoted judges as saying the majority of child marriage cases in the country involved Syrian girls, followed by smaller numbers of Egyptians and Yemenis. There were media reports that some men traveled abroad to find brides, some of whom were legally minors. The application for a marriage license must record the bride's age, and registration of the marriage is a legal prerequisite for consummation. The government reportedly instructed marriage registrars not to register marriages involving children.	Source: Department of State Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2015 http://www.state.gov/j/drl/rls/hrrpt/humanrightsreport/]	

Senegal	By law women have the right to choose when and whom they marry, but traditional practices restricted a woman's choice. The law prohibits the marriage of girls younger than age 16, but this law generally was not enforced in most communities where marriages were arranged. Under certain conditions a judge may grant a special dispensation for marriage to a person below the age of consent. According to the UNFPA, 33 percent of women between ages 20 and 24 were married before the age of 18, based on surveys completed between 2000 and 2011. According to officials from the Ministry of Women, Family, and Childhood and women's rights groups, child marriage was a significant problem, particularly in the more rural areas in the south, east, and northeast, and they undertook educational campaigns to address it.	Source: Department of State Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2015 http://www.state.gov/j/drl/rls/hrrpt/humanrightsreport/]	Article 111: marriage may be contracted only between a man over 20 years old and a woman over 16 years old, unless the regional court dispenses with these age limits for a serious reason - Act No. 89-01 of 17 January 1989 amending the Family Code. [Source: http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/12344477]
Serbia	The legal minimum age of marriage is 18. A court can allow a minor older than 16 but younger than 18 to marry if the minor is mature enough to "enjoy the rights and fulfill the responsibilities of marriage." While the rate of child early and forced marriage among the general population was low, it was a problem in some communities, particularly among Roma and in rural areas of the southern and eastern parts of the country. The most recent census, conducted in 2011, suggests that early marriage occurred among individuals from a variety of economic and social backgrounds. In the Romani community, boys and girls generally married between the ages of 14 and 18, with 16 as the average age. Boys generally married a few years later than girls, and some girls married as early as age 12. Nearly 44 percent of Romani girls in the 15-19 age group were married or in a long-term relationship, compared with only 19 percent of Romani men in the same age group.	Source: Department of State Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2015 http://www.state.gov/j/drl/rls/hrrpt/humanrightsreport/]	
Seychelles	The minimum age for marriage is 15 years for girls with parental consent and 18 years for boys. Child marriage was not a significant problem.	Source: Department of State Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2015 http://www.state.gov/j/drl/rls/hrrpt/humanrightsreport/]	The majority age for male or female to contract marriage is eighteen years and over [Source: http://www.ics.gov.sc/civil-status/getting-married-in-seychelles]
Sierra Leone	Although the law prohibits marriage of boys and girls under the age of 18, including forced marriage, early and forced child marriage continued to be problems. Forty-four percent of women reported being married by the age of 18, and 18 percent by the age of 15. Prevalence of early marriage was highest in the North. UNICEF supported the government in addressing child marriage issues at the local level through awareness raising and training of communities and stakeholders, and supporting the development of by-laws.	Source: Department of State Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2015 http://www.state.gov/j/drl/rls/hrrpt/humanrightsreport/]	
Singapore	The law characterizes unmarried persons under age 21 as minors and persons under 14 as children. Individuals under age 21 wishing to marry must obtain parental consent. In addition to obtaining parental consent, individuals under age 18 require a special license from the Ministry of Social and Family Development. Couples in which one person is under age 18, or where both are between ages 18 and 21, are required to attend a marriage preparation program before they can be issued a marriage license.	Source: Department of State Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2015 http://www.state.gov/j/drl/rls/hrrpt/humanrightsreport/]	
Slovakia	The legal minimum age for marriage is 18 years. In exceptional cases, based upon request of one of the marrying couple, a competent court may allow marriage of a person as young as 16 years, if both parents consent. Women from marginalized Romani communities were transported to the United Kingdom by force or deception to marry foreign citizens attempting to avoid deportation by marrying an EU citizen.	Source: Department of State Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2015 http://www.state.gov/j/drl/rls/hrrpt/humanrightsreport/]	

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Slovenia	The minimum age for marriage is 18. Centers for social service can approve marriage of a person under the age of 18, together with the approval of parents or legal guardians. Child marriage occurred within the Romani community, but it was not a widespread problem.	Source: Department of State Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2015 http://www.state.gov/j/drl/rls/hrrpt/humanrightsreport/]	
Solomon Islands	Boys and girls may legally marry at age 15, and the law permits marriage at age 14 with parental and village consent. Marriage at such young ages did not appear to be common.	Source: Department of State Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2015 http://www.state.gov/j/drl/rls/hrrpt/humanrightsreport/]	
Somalia	The provisional federal constitution does not specify a minimum legal age for marriage. It notes marriage requires the free consent of both the man and woman to be legal. Early marriages frequently occurred; 45 percent of women between the ages of 20 and 24 were married by age 18, and 8 percent were married by age 15. In rural areas parents often compelled daughters as young as 12 to marry. In areas under its control, al-Shabaab arranged compulsory marriages between its soldiers and young girls and used the lure of marriage as a recruitment tool. There were no known efforts by the government or regional authorities to prevent early and forced marriage.	Source: Department of State Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2015 http://www.state.gov/j/drl/rls/hrrpt/humanrightsreport/]	
South Africa	Parental or judicial consent to marry is required for individuals younger than 18. Nevertheless, the traditional practice of "ukuthwala," the arranged marriage of girls as young as age 12 to adult men, occurred in remote villages in Western Cape, Eastern Cape, and KwaZulu-Natal Provinces. In July the president promulgated the Prevention and Combating of Trafficking in Persons Bill that prohibits nonconsensual ukuthwala and classifies it as a trafficking offense. In February 2014 the country recorded its first conviction for an ukuthwala violation under the trafficking provisions of the Children's Act; a man who forcibly married a victim received a 22-year prison sentence. On March 23, the court upheld the conviction on appeal.	Source: Department of State Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2015 http://www.state.gov/j/drl/rls/hrrpt/humanrightsreport/]	
South Korea	The minimum legal age for men and women to marry is 18.	Source: Department of State Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2015 http://www.state.gov/j/drl/rls/hrrpt/humanrightsreport/]	
South Sudan	The law provides that every child has the right to protection from early marriage but does not explicitly prohibit marriage before age 18. Child marriage was common. According to the Ministry of Gender, nearly half of all girls and young women between the ages of 15 and 19 were married, and some brides were as young as 12 years old. Early marriage sometimes reflected efforts by men to avoid rape charges, which a married woman cannot bring against her husband. In other cases families of rape victims encouraged marriage to the rapist to avoid public shaming. Many abducted girls, often repeatedly subjected to rape (see section 1.g.), were forced into marriage.	Source: Department of State Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2015 http://www.state.gov/j/drl/rls/hrrpt/humanrightsreport/]	

Spain	<p>The minimum age of marriage is 16 years for minors living on their own. A reform of the penal code approved in January categorizes forced marriage as a crime punishable by from six months to three years and six months in prison. Forced marriage carries similar penalties that, until now, the law categorized as coercion. Immigrant groups from the Middle East and North Africa, and Romanian Roma often performed forced marriages. If they occur within families, they can be difficult to identify and prosecute. In December 2014 the Catalan regional government, the regional police, and other local institutions approved a protocol to fight against forced marriage in the province of Girona. The protocol, which is the first of its kind in the country, holistically emphasizes the prevention, detection, assistance, reporting, monitoring, and protection of the victims. As of June 30, the Catalan police assisted 11 victims of forced marriage, six of which involved minors.</p>	<p>Source: Department of State Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2015 http://www.state.gov/j/drl/rls/hrrpt/humanrightsreport/]</p>	
Sri Lanka	<p>The minimum legal age for marriage is 18 for both men and women, although girls may marry at age 16 with parental consent. According to the 2006-07 Demographic Health Survey, 11 percent of women between the ages 20 and 24 reported being married or in a union before age 18. The Ministry of Women and Children's Affairs conducted programs in many districts to educate the public at the village level on the complications that may result from early marriage. In a 2013 study, Emerging Concerns and Case Studies on Child Marriage in Sri Lanka, the UN Children's Fund documented a growing list of human rights concerns, especially for young girls, resulting from early marriage trends, particularly in poorer, war-affected communities.</p>	<p>Source: Department of State Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2015 http://www.state.gov/j/drl/rls/hrrpt/humanrightsreport/]</p>	
Sudan	<p>The law establishes the legal age of marriage at 10 for girls and 15 or puberty for boys. There were no reliable statistics on the extent of child marriage, but child advocates reported it remained a problem, especially in rural areas. According to UNICEF estimates, 12 percent of women ages 20 to 24 were first married or in a union before they were 15, and 34 percent were married before reaching 18. In October the first lady issued a statement during International Day of the Girl expressing concern about early and forced marriages and announcing a government initiative that would be launched to tackle the issue.</p>	<p>Source: Department of State Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2015 http://www.state.gov/j/drl/rls/hrrpt/humanrightsreport/]</p>	
Suriname	<p>Parental permission to marry is required until the age of 21. The marriage law sets the age of marital consent at 15 for girls and 17 for boys, provided parents of the parties agree to the marriage. Where local customs remain a strong influence on the family unit, girls traditionally marry at or near the legal age of consent.</p>	<p>Source: Department of State Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2015 http://www.state.gov/j/drl/rls/hrrpt/humanrightsreport/]</p>	
Swaziland	<p>The legal age of marriage is 18 years for both boys and girls, but with parental consent and approval from the minister of justice, girls may marry at 16. The government recognizes two types of marriage, civil marriage and marriage under traditional law and custom. Under traditional law marriages are permitted for girls as young as 13. Although the deputy prime minister spoke out against this practice, civil law was generally not enforced to prevent it. According to the Children's Protection and Welfare Act, however, "A child has the right to refuse to be compelled to undergo or uphold any custom or practices that are likely to negatively affect the child's life, health, welfare, dignity or physical, emotional, psychological, mental, and intellectual development."</p>	<p>Source: Department of State Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2015 http://www.state.gov/j/drl/rls/hrrpt/humanrightsreport/]</p>	
Sweden	<p>The minimum age of marriage is 18, and it is illegal for anyone under 18 to marry. The law allows no exceptions.</p>	<p>Source: Department of State Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2015 http://www.state.gov/j/drl/rls/hrrpt/humanrightsreport/]</p>	

Switzerland	The legal minimum age of marriage is 18 years. Forcing a person to marry is punishable by up to five years' imprisonment.	Source: Department of State Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2015 http://www.state.gov/j/drl/rls/hrrpt/humanrightsreport/]	
Syria	The legal age for marriage is 18 for men and 17 for girls. A boy or girl who is 15 or older may marry if a judge deems both parties willing, "physically mature," and if the fathers or grandfathers of both parties consent. Although underage marriage declined considerably in past decades, it was common and occurred in all communities, albeit in greater numbers in rural and less developed regions. The media and NGOs reported that early marriage, particularly among girls, was increasing among Syrian refugee populations. Da'esh systematically abducted and sexually exploited Yezidi girls in Iraq and transported them to Syria for forced marriage (see section 1.g. and section 6, Women).	Source: Department of State Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2015 http://www.state.gov/j/drl/rls/hrrpt/humanrightsreport/]	
Taiwan	The legal minimum age of marriage is 18 for men and 16 for women.	Source: Department of State Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2015 http://www.state.gov/j/drl/rls/hrrpt/humanrightsreport/]	
Tajikistan	The legal minimum age for marriage of men and women is 18 years. Under exceptional circumstances, which a judge must determine, such as in the case of pregnancy, a couple may also apply to a court to lower the marriageable age to 17. Underage religious marriage was more widespread in rural areas. Many parents told their daughters to quit school after ninth grade, at which point parents considered their daughters to have obtained sufficient professional skills, such as sewing or cooking, to have a source of income in the future. The law expressly prohibits forced marriages of girls under age 18 or entering into a marriage contract with a girl under 18. Early marriage carries a prison sentence of up to six months, while forced marriage is punishable by up to five years' imprisonment. In most cases the law punishes underage marriage with a fine. Because couples may not register a marriage where one of the would-be spouses is under age 18, many simply have a local religious leader perform the wedding ceremony. Without a civil registration certificate, the bride has few legal rights. NGOs claimed that during the year regional ministries of education and schoolteachers were very actively involved in persuading parents not to take their daughters out of school. The NGOs claimed the situation in some rural areas had improved, and the government partially addressed the problem by requiring mullahs to demand a certificate of civil marriage registration to conduct the religious ceremony; however, this regulation was not effectively enforced, and mullahs conducted religious marriages at unmonitored private ceremonies.	Source: Department of State Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2015 http://www.state.gov/j/drl/rls/hrrpt/humanrightsreport/]	
Tanzania	On the mainland the law provides that girls as young as 15 can marry with the consent of parents or guardians, although no consent is required for orphaned girls without guardians. The law sets the minimum age of marriage for boys at 18. The courts also have discretion to allow the marriages of 14-year-old girls in the case of pregnancy. Additionally, the law allows Muslim and Hindu girls to marry as young as 12 as long as the marriage is not consummated until the girl reaches age 15. To circumvent these laws, individuals reportedly bribed police or paid a bride price to the family of the girl to avoid prosecution. According to Human Rights Watch (HRW), girls as young as seven were married. An estimated 37 percent of women between the ages of 20 and 24 were married before the age of 18, and 7 percent were married before the age of 15, according to the 2010 Demographic and Health Survey. Zanzibar has its own law on marriage, but it does	Source: Department of State Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2015 http://www.state.gov/j/drl/rls/hrrpt/humanrightsreport/]	18 Male, 18 Female, Women and men who have reached the age of 14 may marry only with parental consent. UNPD_Inquiry on Population and Development_2003 [Source: http://data.un.org/]

	not specifically address early marriage.		
Thailand	The minimum legal age for marriage for both sexes is 17 years; however, anyone younger than 20 years requires parental consent. A court may grant permission to marry for those ages 15 to 16 years. Awareness programs by Islamic committees and government agencies sought to prevent child marriage under Islamic tradition. NGOs suggested reports of early forced marriage in the country were not yet at the level of serious concern when compared to the problems of rape, domestic violence, and premature pregnancy among teens. Nonetheless, NGOs noted early forced marriage between student teens who become pregnant, a practice to “save face” and protect the baby’s legal status, appeared to be increasing as the country’s teenage pregnancy rate also increased. According to a World Health Organization report, the country has the second highest number of teenage births among Association of Southeast Asian Nations countries. The Ministry of Public Health launched an awareness campaign designed to lower teen pregnancy.	Source: Department of State Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2015 http://www.state.gov/j/drl/rls/hrrpt/humanrightsreport/]	
Timor-Leste	Although a marriage may not be registered until the youngest spouse is at least age 16, cultural, religious and civil marriages were recognized in the civil code. Cultural pressure to marry, especially if a girl or woman becomes pregnant, is strong. Underage couples may not officially marry, but are often married de facto once they have children together. Forced marriage rarely occurred, although reports indicated that social pressure sometimes encouraged victims of rape to marry their attacker or persons to enter into an arranged marriage where a bride price is paid. According to the most recent information from UNICEF (2010), an estimated 19 percent of girls married prior to the age of 18.	Source: Department of State Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2015 http://www.state.gov/j/drl/rls/hrrpt/humanrightsreport/]	
Togo	The legal age for marriage is 18 for girls and 20 for boys, although both may marry under these ages with parental consent. According to a 2015 UNICEF report, 25 percent of women ages 20-24 were married or in a union before age 18, and 6 percent were married or in union before age 15. The practice significantly declined in recent years. Rates were highest in the Savannah Region at 61 percent, followed by the Plateau Region at 37 percent, Kara Region at 36 percent, Central Region at 31 percent, and the Maritime Region at 29 percent. The government and NGOs engaged in a range of actions to prevent early marriage, particularly raising awareness among community and religious leaders. Multiple initiatives focused on helping girls stay in school. Messages broadcast through mass media, particularly local radio, stressed avoiding early marriage and the importance of educating girls.	Source: Department of State Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2015 http://www.state.gov/j/drl/rls/hrrpt/humanrightsreport/]	
Tonga	The legal minimum age of marriage is 15, and the rate of marriage for children under the age of 18, while not known, was believed to be low.	Source: Department of State Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2015 http://www.state.gov/j/drl/rls/hrrpt/humanrightsreport/]	

Trinidad and Tobago	Although the legal age for civil and Christian marriage is 18 for both men and women, the distinct laws and attitudes of the various religious denominations determine the minimum legal age for marriage. Under the Muslim Marriage and Divorce Act, the minimum legal age for marriage is 16 for men and 12 for women; under the Hindu Marriage Act, the minimum legal age for marriage is 18 for men and 14 for women; and the Orisa Marriage Act sets the minimum legal age for marriage at 18 for men and 16 for women.	Source: Department of State Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2015 http://www.state.gov/j/drl/rls/hrrpt/humanrightsreport/]	
Tunisia	The minimum age for marriage for both sexes is 18, but the courts may, in certain situations, authorize the marriage of persons younger than 18 upon the express request and approval of both parents.	Source: Department of State Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2015 http://www.state.gov/j/drl/rls/hrrpt/humanrightsreport/]	
Turkey	The law defines 18 years as the minimum age for marriage, although children may marry at 17 with parental permission and at 16 with court approval. Children as young as 12 were at times married in unofficial religious ceremonies, particularly in poor, rural regions. Some families applied to courts to change the birthdate of their daughters so that they could “legally” marry. Early and forced marriage was particularly prevalent in the Southeast, and women’s rights activists reported the problem remained serious. A report by the NGO KAMER in 2013 estimated that as many as one-third of marriages in the Southeast involved underage girls. In 2014 the NGO Flying Broom estimated that, based on police data, one-third of all marriages involved girls under age 18 and that one-third of those marriages involved marriages as second wives. The Ministry of Family and Social Policies ran a public service message during the year aimed at reducing early marriage.	Source: Department of State Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2015 http://www.state.gov/j/drl/rls/hrrpt/humanrightsreport/]	
Turkmenistan	The legal minimum age for marriage is 18. According to UNICEF’s 2014 report, State of the World’s Children, 7 percent of marriages involved minors.	Source: Department of State Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2015 http://www.state.gov/j/drl/rls/hrrpt/humanrightsreport/]	
Tuvalu	The legal minimum age of marriage for both girls and boys is 16 years.	Source: Department of State Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2015 http://www.state.gov/j/drl/rls/hrrpt/humanrightsreport/]	
Uganda	The legal minimum age for marriage is 18, but authorities did not enforce the law. Marriage of underage girls by parental arrangement was common, particularly in rural areas. Local NGOs and the police Family and Children Unit reported some parents arranged such marriages or sexual arrangements for girls as young as 12 due to poverty. According to the UNFPA, the prevalence rate of early and forced marriage was approximately 46 percent for girls 15 and older. UNICEF’s 2015 State of the Children report estimated 10 percent of girls were married before age 15. On June 16, the MGLSD launched the first National Strategy on Ending Child Marriage and Teenage Pregnancy, developed in partnership with UNICEF and local NGOs, to strengthen legal protections for children, improve access to education and health services, and change attitudes regarding earlier marriages. According to UNICEF, the government child helpline registered 131 cases of child marriage between January and June. In March 2014 police in Butaleja District, Eastern Region, arrested nine persons for attempting to marry a 12-year-	Source: Department of State Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2015 http://www.state.gov/j/drl/rls/hrrpt/humanrightsreport/]	

	old girl to a 45-year-old man. The nine suspects did not return after being released on bail, and authorities did not forward the case for prosecution.		
Ukraine	The minimum age for marriage is 18. If it finds marriage to be in the child's interest, a court may grant a child as young as 16 years old permission to marry. According to a report funded by UNICEF, in 2013 approximately 11 percent of women reported being married or in a union before they were 18 (10 percent of urban and 14.5 percent of rural residents). Romani rights groups reported early marriages involving girls under 18 were common in the Romani community.	Source: Department of State Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2015 http://www.state.gov/j/drl/rls/hrrpt/humanrightsreport/]	
United Arab Emirates	The legal age of marriage for both men and women is 18.	Source: Department of State Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2015 http://www.state.gov/j/drl/rls/hrrpt/humanrightsreport/]	
United Kingdom	The minimum legal age for marriage in the UK is 16. In England and Wales, persons under 18 and not previously married require the written consent of the parents or guardians, and the underage person must present a birth certificate. During the year forcing a UK citizen into marriage anywhere in the world became a criminal offense in England and Wales. The new law provides for a maximum prison sentence of seven years. In Scotland persons between 16 and 18 do not need parental consent to be married. In Northern Ireland persons under 18 need parental consent "or if appropriate an order of a court dispensing with consent." In Bermuda the minimum age for marriage is 18. The government's Forced Marriage Unit (FMU) operated a helpline providing confidential support and advice to victims and professionals and conducted a nationwide outreach program with schools, social services, and police. In 2014 the FMU gave advice or support to 1,267 cases, 79 percent of which involved female victims. More than 10 percent involved victims with disabilities and 11 percent of cases involved victims under the age of 16. In June a man was sentenced to 16 years in prison for making a 25-year-old woman marry him under duress, the first ever to be jailed under the forced marriage laws introduced in 2014. The same month, Respond, a UK-based charity supporting persons with learning disabilities affected by trauma and abuse, launched My Life, My Marriage, a project aimed at challenging the practice of forcing marriage on persons with learning disabilities. In Scotland the law provides for protection against forced marriage without free and full consent and for protecting persons who have been forced into marriage without such consent. The legal minimum age to enter into a marriage in Scotland is 16 and does not require parental consent.	Source: Department of State Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2015 http://www.state.gov/j/drl/rls/hrrpt/humanrightsreport/]	
United States	Varies by state - see source	[Source: https://www.law.cornell.edu/wex/table_marriage]	

Uruguay	The legal minimum age for marriage is 18, but with parental consent is age 12 for girls and age 14 for boys. Early marriages were not perceived to be a significant problem.	Source: Department of State Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2015 http://www.state.gov/j/drl/rls/hrrpt/humanrightsreport/]	
Uzbekistan	The minimum legal age for marriage is 17 for women and 18 for men, although a district may lower the age by one year in exceptional cases. The Women's Committee and mahalla representatives conducted systematic campaigns to raise awareness of the dangers of child marriage and early births. The committee also held regular public meetings with community representatives and girls in schools to emphasize the importance of education, self-reliance, financial independence, and the right to free choice. In some rural areas, girls as young as 15 occasionally were married in religious ceremonies not officially recognized by the state.	Source: Department of State Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2015 http://www.state.gov/j/drl/rls/hrrpt/humanrightsreport/]	
Vanuatu	The legal age for marriage is 21 years, although boys between 18 and 21 years and girls between 16 and 21 years may marry with parental permission. In rural areas and outer islands, some children married at younger ages. UNICEF reported that in 2008, approximately 27 percent of girls married before age 18. There were no government programs aimed at discouraging child marriage.	Source: Department of State Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2015 http://www.state.gov/j/drl/rls/hrrpt/humanrightsreport/]	
Venezuela	The legal minimum age for marriage is 18 for women and men, but with parental consent it is 14 for women and 16 for men.	Source: Department of State Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2015 http://www.state.gov/j/drl/rls/hrrpt/humanrightsreport/]	
Vietnam	The legal minimum age of marriage is 18 for girls and 20 for boys, and the law criminalizes organizing marriage for, or entering into marriage with, an underage person. Possible punishments for arranging early marriages range from administrative sanctions to prison terms of between three months and two years. According to the 2009 census, the rate of marriage under age 18 was approximately 16 percent in the Northwest Highlands and 11 percent in the Central Highlands--both poor and remote rural areas--but additional government data were not available. Provincial authorities and the Women's Union were responsible for raising popular awareness of the consequences of early marriage.	Source: Department of State Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2015 http://www.state.gov/j/drl/rls/hrrpt/humanrightsreport/]	
Yemen	Early and forced marriage was a significant, widespread problem. There was no minimum age for marriage, and girls married as young as eight years of age, which traditionalists claimed served to assure they were virgins at the time of marriage. UNICEF's 2013 data estimated that 12 percent of females married by age 15 and 32 percent by age 18. The conflict likely exacerbated the situation, but new information was not available. The law forbids sex with underage brides until they are "suitable for sexual intercourse," an age that is undefined. An assessment undertaken by Intersos in Ta'iz in July found that 27 IDP and 10 host community families openly practiced early marriage, caused mostly by security concerns and local traditions, according to an NGO.	Source: Department of State Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2015 http://www.state.gov/j/drl/rls/hrrpt/humanrightsreport/]	

Zambia	<p>The legal age of marriage is 16 for boys and girls with parental consent and 21 without consent. There is no minimum age under customary law. According to the ZDHS, 45 percent of married women ages 25-49 were married by age 18. Prevalence was highest in rural areas. The government, parliamentarians, civil society organizations, and donors worked together to fight early and forced marriages. The Ministries of Chiefs and Traditional Affairs and Gender and Child Development, in collaboration with traditional leaders, NGOs, diplomatic missions, and other stakeholders, increasingly spoke out against early and forced marriages. Some leaders nullified forced and early marriages and placed the girls removed in school. In June, Chief Kabamba of the Lala people in Serenje dissolved 10 child marriages and put the girls removed back in school. The chief also punished the girls' parents for arranging the marriages by assigning community work to them.</p>	<p>Source: Department of State Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2015 http://www.state.gov/j/drl/rls/hrrpt/humanrightsreport/]</p>	
Zimbabwe	<p>Despite legal prohibitions, families primarily among the rural population continued to force girls to marry. Families gave young women to other families in marriage to avenge spirits, as compensatory payment in interfamily disputes, or when promised to others--to provide economic protection for the family. Some families sold their daughters as brides in exchange for food, and younger daughters at times married their deceased older sister's husband as a "replacement" bride. An NGO study published in March 2014 found that because of the cultural emphasis placed on virginity, any loss of virginity--real or perceived, consensual or forced--could result in marriage, including early or forced marriage. In some instances family members forced a girl to marry a man based on the mere suspicion that the two had had sexual intercourse. This cultural practice even applied in cases of rape, and the study found numerous instances in which families concealed rape by facilitating the marriage between rapist and victim. The legal age for a civil marriage is 18, but girls who are 16 and 17 may marry with parental approval. Customary marriage, recognized under the law, does not require a minimum marriage age for either boys or girls. The criminal code prohibits sexual relations with persons younger than age 18, however. According to the DHS study, 21.7 percent of girls between the ages of 15 and 19 were married. According to the 2014 MICS, 5 percent of girls and women ages 15-49 were married before 15, while 33 percent of women ages 20-49 were married before 18. Child welfare NGOs reported they occasionally saw evidence of underage marriages, particularly in isolated religious communities or among HIV/AIDS orphans who had no relatives willing or able to take care of them. The constitution declares anyone under age 18 a child, but the Customary Marriages Act was not amended to reflect the constitutional change. On January 14, two women challenged the constitutionality of laws permitting child marriage before the Constitutional Court. During the hearing the chief justice indicated that the laws permitting the practice were clearly unconstitutional, but the court reserved judgement in the case and had yet to issue a formal ruling at year's end. On July 31, First Lady Grace Mugabe launched the Zimbabwean chapter of the AU Campaign to End Child Marriages. She called on the minister of justice and legal affairs to align marriage laws to the constitution and suggested stricter penalties for offenders. She also urged stakeholders to develop an action plan to end child marriages.</p>	<p>Source: Department of State Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2015 http://www.state.gov/j/drl/rls/hrrpt/humanrightsreport/]</p>	