Ending Child Marriage Movie Night

**WHAT:** African Girls’ Summit Side Event, FREE Screening of Films on Ending Child Marriage

**WHEN:** International Day of Ending Violence Against Women, 25 November 2015 from 3pm to 10pm

**WHERE:** Auditorium, Government Complex, Lusaka, Zambia
Children across Africa speak out against the harmful and devastating practice of child marriage.
The United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women) in its documentary series “African Women Changing the Narrative—Our Story” portrays stories of change and success for gender equality and women’s empowerment. Providing a platform for African women to tell their own stories UN Women shares inspirational stories of change and portrays women as leaders, developers and innovators who are key to development. This video on Ending Child Marriage is one out of 6 videos and showcases the role of partners such as governments, communities and men as key partners in making a change while highlighting the critical role of women themselves.

For more information please send us an email to:
ethiopia.unwomen@unwomen.org

Or visit the website at www.unwomen.org
Shot in four countries - Malawi, Mozambique, Zambia and Zimbabwe, the 18+ Ending Child Marriage documentary highlights the plight of child brides in the Southern African region. The documentary highlights the 18+ Ending Child Marriage programme, a flagship initiative of the Global Girls Innovation Programme (GGIP) of Plan International which focuses on core drivers that perpetuate early and child marriages in five Southern African countries: Malawi, Mozambique, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe. The film shows how the programme adopts a “preventive” rather than a reactive approach, prioritising interventions that benefit girls aged 10 to 14 years old. It looks at different ways of working with girls, communities, traditional leaders, governments, global institutions, and the private sector to address the barriers that prevent girls from realising their full potential.

More information on Plan International Because I Am A Girl Campaign can be found at www.becauseiamagirl.org
Fatima is a Touareg 12 year old girl, who lives in the small village Wabouzou not far from the town Tchintabaraden in the Azawak area of Niger. She is in the final year of primary school, and one of the best in her class. While preparing for her final exams, her father arranges for her to be married to his brother's son, who is almost three times Fatimata’s age. When she becomes aware of her upcoming marriage, she is frightened by the news. She has no idea what marriage means and above all, she only wants to stay in school. Her mother was also forced into marriage and does not want the same fate for her daughter. Although her mother and sister are against Fatimata’s marriage, Fatima's father forces her to marry and leave school.
To be a pregnant child is to be terrified. 15 million girls below the age of 18 marry every year, 28 every minute. Pregnancy and complications during childbirth are among the leading causes of death in girls aged 15 to 19. Camfed is part of the international movement to end child marriage and motherhood. Our film, The Child Within, is an unflinching portrait of three girls, three unique individuals, who are among these statistics. All three want to share their stories and want other girls, their families and communities to understand the heavy emotional and physical pressures of child motherhood. The Child Within was made in 2011 in rural Malawi, in a district where pregnancy is the cause of school dropout in 50% of cases. As an education charity, we work with communities, government health and education services, and traditional leaders, to get girls into school and keep them there, helping to prevent early marriage and child pregnancy. And the graduates of our programme in the CAMA alumni network are now at the forefront of our movement to support pregnant girls and child mothers to return to school.
The Girl Summit 2014 demanded an end to FGM and child, early and forced marriage within a generation.

One year on, Ethiopia is taking forward its commitment to end FGM and child marriage by 2025.
Length: ‘5:48
Language: English

The film follows Mr. Wanjala Wafula, a women's rights activist from Kenya and member of Girls Not Brides, in his day-to-day work to convince men that ending child marriage is not just a necessity: it is their responsibility. The film explores the complex factors that perpetuate child marriage and how men can take a more active role in upholding the rights of girls.
My Dreams Cannot Be Broken: The Adolescent Girls Empowerment Program is a documentary that shows the key tenets of the UKAID funded AGEP. The film depicts how AGEP works to harness girls’ inherent pride and determination so that they can overcome the obstacles created by poverty and forge independent lives for themselves. Through the film, we see the importance and ways of investing in adolescent girls so that they can be empowered, overcome negative barriers and fulfill their potential in society.

For more information on AGEP, please visit the Population Council website at www.popcouncil.org
One out of two girls under the age of 18 must marry in Burkina Faso. The 14 year old Zalissa sees another future. With help from her teacher and the PTA, her father was convinced that child marriage is an old tradition that needs to be abandoned. Zalissa tells her story and her teacher and father give their perspective.
17-year-old Mirriam wants to become a doctor. However, where Mirriam lives, child marriage and poverty threaten her chances of getting the education she needs and the future she dreams of.

“Together: Ending Child Marriage in Zambia” is a short documentary that asks what can be done to enable girls like Mirriam to avoid child marriage and fulfil their potential. It shows that, by working together, we can make sure that no girl is married as a child. This film features the work of Girls Not Brides members in Zambia including the Forum for African Women Educationalists Zambia (FAWEZA), Population Council and YWCA Zambia.

Find out more about child marriage and the work of Girls Not Brides at: www.GirlsNotBrides.org
Length: ‘20:00
Language: French

‘C’est la vie’ is the very first soap opera on child and maternal health in francophone Africa. A series of episodes tells the daily work and challenges faced by health workers in a health centre from a fictional semi-urban community called Ratanga. The featured episode of ‘C’est la vie’ addresses the issues of child marriage and early pregnancy.

C’est la vie’ is broadcast across West and Central Africa and is produced with support from the French government, UNICEF, UNFPA, UN Women and WHO.

For more information visit http://cestlaviety.com/
The Hand of Fate explores the theme of early marriage and its negative effects on the development of young girls. It poses questions in an attempt to find some answers to this cultural phenomenon. For example, is poverty the underlying cause for early marriage? Is it greed? Is it laziness or complacency in human nature which blames fate for one’s misfortunes or status in life? Are those people in authority blind to the violation of the rights of girl-child?

In the end, the Hand of Fate must do what it ought to do, to decide upon everyone’s fate. This is a story of a society which abandons its values and preys on young innocent girls. The Hand of fate is thought provoking film with traditional Gambian settings that bring the attention of the general public to this practice.
Zara, a successful African doctor living in Wales is determined to stay away from her childhood memories and this now threatens her commitment to marry Alex, a gentleman she truly loves. Her mother, a missionary to Africa, has been unable to get Zara to go with her for her yearly medical aid trips to Africa. When her mother falls ill and unable to make a crucial trip and Zara discovers there is a strong possibility her long lost daughter might still be alive in Africa, she steered in a new direction to face and conquer her darkest fears. Her trip to Africa becomes inevitable. Back in Africa, thirteen-year-old Halima's poor parents make her marry Sani, a 60 year old man. With no idea of intercourse or its intricacies, she goes through a dreadful ordeal as her new husband repeatedly rapes her until she is pregnant and after the delivery of her child, young Halima suffers a condition known as Vesico Vaginal Fistula (VVF). A health nightmare suffered by over 800,000 other women just like her, she is ostracised and abandoned by her husband, family and community. It is a period of rejection, isolation and despair for Halima. The movie follows a trail of Zara’s trip to Africa, her constant turmoil as a result of inexplicable horrors from her childhood, her experiences and heartaches while working with these suffering women against the backdrop of a rich African culture. Finally, Zara meets Halima and marvels at the revelation of the tie that binds them together. It is full of intrigues, suspense, unbelievable surprises and the joy of reconciliation the power of the human spirit that is guaranteed to put a smile on people’s face.
For information on the Movie Night and the UN Women Programme:

"African Women Changing the Narrative - Our Story" please contact Ms. Monika Bihlmaier via email at monika.bihlmaier@unwomen.org