

TOO YOUNG *to* WED

PROTECT GIRLS' RIGHTS, END CHILD MARRIAGE.



WHO WE ARE AND WHAT WE DO

TOO YOUNG TO WED's (TYTW) mission is to protect girls' rights and end child marriage. Through the use of powerful portraits and short films of child brides, TYTW serves as the bridge, connecting girls' stories to governments, policymakers, and the public. TYTW's Adolescent Girls Photography Workshops provide survivors and girls at-risk of child marriage a chance to heal, tell their own stories, and return to their communities as leaders in the fight against child marriage.

TYTW was founded in 2012 by Stephanie Sinclair, an acclaimed photojournalist. She sought to bring worldwide attention and political action to the underreported issue of child marriage.

OUR VISION IS A WORLD WHERE

- Every girl can decide for herself, if, when, and whom to marry.
- Adolescent girls are free to simply be children and can determine the course of their own lives.

ISSUE

- Every two seconds, a girl is married against her will.
- An estimated 142 million girls will be forced to marry over the next decade.
- This issue is extremely under reported, few statistics and data are available on child brides, and is a taboo topic of discussion in communities.
- Child marriage is the result of complex socio-political and economic issues including: poverty, conflict, and natural disasters.
- Child brides are vulnerable to leaving school, social isolation, sexual & physical violence, injury and death from teenage pregnancies, and overwork.
- The younger a girl is, the more likely a child bride is to experience violent, forced sex, show signs of child abuse such as post-traumatic stress and severe depression, and even contract HIV.



"I think if you look at this extraordinary photograph and you look at the eyes of each and every one of those women, they tell an extraordinary story. It's a very powerful photograph."

—Secretary of State John Kerry, during unveiling of U.S. Global Strategy to Empower Adolescent Girls

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SOLUTIONS

REPORTING

- Captivate and educate the public through award-winning photographers and filmmakers, who inspire the world to act to end the harmful practice.
- Report from the forefront of the issue, focusing on emerging topics such as fragile contexts in post-earthquake Nepal and war-torn Iraq.

ADVOCACY

- Ensure that girls' voices are heard by policymakers and leaders, giving them an opportunity to tell their stories at critical junctures.
- Influence policy through unparalleled visual evidence of child marriage in partnerships with government officials, policymakers, and international organizations.

SUPPORT

- Ensure girl survivors' access to direct services by connecting them to local organizations that provide education, health care and other services.
- Adolescent Girls Photography Workshops creatively employ visual storytelling to educate survivors and help them to heal and become leaders.

TYTW IMPACT

- Traveling multimedia exhibitions directly influenced child marriage policy updates at United Nations agencies.
- Stunning visual storytelling helped spark the creation of the International Day of the Girl Child.
- In-depth reporting in the New York Times led to new national marriage age laws in Guatemala.
- U.S. State Department enlisted TYTW to help unveil its groundbreaking Global Strategy to Empower Adolescent Girls.
- Inaugural Adolescent Girls Photography Workshop in Kenya helped over 20 girls to find their individual voices and realize their personal value.
- Scholarship program established to provide annual tuition for students at-risk of child marriage in post-earthquake Nepal.

EUNICE'S STORY

"Today I learned a girl can do anything. I learned I am creative and I can learn fast. I am happy that the new things I learned today [are] to be confident and be powerful."

Eunice, an attendee of TYTW's inaugural Adolescent Girls Photography Workshop attendee in Maralal, Kenya.

