**African Liberators Economic Institute (ALEI)**

**Stop child marriage now**

**BY**

**Capacitating Poor Women with employable Skills**

***“Building Hope for the Girls”***

**ORGANISATION DESCRIPTION**: African Liberator Economic Institute (ALEI) is a Research based non- political ,non - governmental independent organization with the purpose of fighting poverty by empowering women and rural folks to be contributing members of society to end child marriage by increasing girl child population in school. We are Organization operating in Kumasi,the Second Capital of Ghana in West Africa.

**OFFICIAL REGISTRATION**: Registrar General Department, Ghana

Registration No : CG019292019

**CONTACT PERSONS**: Mr. Alex Ababio (Executive Director)

**CONTACT DETAILS**: PHYSICAL: Adum Pampaso Kumasi

POSTAL: PO BOX Ks 7365

Kumasi

TELEPHONE: +233(0)550611401

E-MAIL – africanliberators@yahoo.com

Website – www.africalei.com

**VISION:** To empower every woman in every poor community to take good care of their family in particular their girl child to ensure they attain good education for the benefit of themselves, their community and the total development of Ghana.

**ORGANISATION MISSION:**

“Our mission is to promote and improve scientific and innovative research on individual liberty by building citizen capacity and activism and strengthening the various economic and democratic institutions in Ghana to ensure equitable distribution of wealth and protection in improving living standard of the people, especially the poor women and girls in Ghana.

**Organizations Main Activities:**

This project is a long term investment with 5 years focused aims at ending child marriage by providing financial capacity and employable skills to 5000 women in poverty endemic communities in Ghana, especially in the three northern regions to ensure they become financial independent to take good care of their family. We hope that when the women have the financial capacity to provide sustainable economic livelihood to their family child marriage which is largely due to financial challenges of parents especially women in poor communities will be curtailed to ensure the girl child stays in school to acquire quality education for their future development.

#### Project Title: Empower 5000 women to end child marriage in Ghana

#### Executive Summary:

The project seeks to end child marriage, child trafficking and sexual abuse and exploitation against children, especially girls in the three northern regions and other urban poor areas of Ghana where these underprivileged girls between 10 and 15 years are migrated to. The project intends to end child marriage and all forms of sexual exploitation against young girls by focuses on raising and building 5000 women entrepreneurs in livestock, cash crop and fish farming, tie and dye ,liquid and bar soap making among others in those poor communities especially in Sawoubea in the Wa East District as a sustainable way of raising funds to equip them to become financial independent to be able take care of their children, especially their educational needs. African Liberators Economic Institute’s research can confirm that the rising incidence of child marriage ,trafficking and other forms of sexual exploitation is as a result of severe financial hardships in the poor communities in Ghana. This trend can be reversed when women in these poor communities are financially independent to provide decent livelihoods for their families.

#### Challenge

The Upper West Regional Girls’ Educational Officer at the Ghana Education Service (GES) Madam Annacleta Viiru has stated no girl has ever completed the Sawoubea Junior High School (JHS) in the Wa East District since its establishment about 25 years ago ,due to child marriage.

The incidence of child marriage in Ghana is highest among the Gurma at 35.4 per cent. Next, with an incidence of 35.1 per cent, are other ethnic groups not indigenous to Ghana. The ethnic group with the third highest incidence is the Mole-Dagbani (32.9%), with Ewe being the ethnic group with the lowest incidence of child marriage (19.7%) in the country.

Studies on the harmful effects of early marriage on the health of the victims have revealed that girls who are married off before the age of 18 years often experience early sexual debut, give birth to more children and lose more children to neonatal and childhood disease (Jensen & Thornton, 2003; Walker, 2012; Morhe et al., 2012). According to Jensen and Thornton (2003), early marriage leads to early childbirth, which sometimes adversely affects the reproductive health of the victims. As a result of their physiology, most child brides often experience prolonged labour and difficult delivery, which sometimes lead to permanent injury.

In 2010, about 5.6 per cent of boys and 5.2 per cent of girls aged 12-14 years were married (Ghana Statistical Service, 2013). The incidence almost doubled to 9.2 per cent among girls aged 15-19 years and was slightly lower at 4.8 per cent for boys in the same age category.

Ghana Demographic and Health Survey (GDHS) estimates of incidence of child marriage that in 2014 about one out of every five women aged between 18 and 49 years in Ghana was married as a child. This outcome is consistent with studies by UNICEF and other researchers on the incidence of child marriage in sub-Saharan Africa.

#### Solution

Providing financial support to 5000 women living in poor communities especially, where child marriage and sexual abuse of children are prevalent to enable them become gainfully employed to take care of their children who are victims of this unfortunate incidents .The projects will provide financial assistance to these women to engage in livestock, cash crop and fish farming, tie and dye, liquid and bar soap making among others .They will receive entrepreneurial skills to become financial giants in their communities so as to provide meaningful livelihoods to their children by ensuring that high cost of educational materials which has made it virtually impossible for most families to afford quality education, and its resultant child marriage and other forms of sexual abuse , are well taken care of .

In addition, 5000 children especially girls , parents, teachers and local authorities will also be trained through the project on how to collaborate to stop sexual abuse, all forms of sexual exploitation , child trafficking are among others.

A common platform dubbed : Virtual and face to face conference compromises nurses, police , teachers, parents and guardians, opinion leaders as well as young girls will be created to ensure that the young girls in particular get the opportunity to report any child marriage attempts and all forms of sexual abuse on them to the leadership of the group.

#### Long-Term Impact

Empowering these women in poor communities with financial assistance and entrepreneurial skills is essential tool and means to find appropriate solution to curbing child marriage phenomenon in poor communities in Ghana.

When the women are financially independent they will be able to take care of their children especially young girls in school so that they will not succumb to pressures from economic hardship to give off their young girls to early marriage.

The children, in particular the young girls will stay in school to acquire life skills to contribute to the development of their communities as they become role model such as nurses, doctors, lawyers, journalists, teachers among others who will eventually become ambassadors against child marriage of the growing up children in their communities and the country as a whole. This way the incidence of child marriage will be totally eradicated in every community especially those with high incidence of child marriage and all forms of child abuse. This will also break poverty circle in those poor communities in the country.

1. Training and employable Skills acquisition:

African Liberators Economic Institute missions project intends to organize series of training for all the 5000 women to acquire skills in livestock and cash crop farming .In addition, the project will equip participants with skills in bar and liquid soap, tie and dye clothes ,smock making and other employable skills including marketing skills. Aside the selected women ,the project will provide quality training and support to selected trainers, Community Based Groups and individuals located within this community where child marriage is rampant. The aim is to train them to become trainers themselves with prime objective to create worth for themselves and others. The training will also equip trainers including opinion larders, local groups, women group with skills in dealing with men and women who are in support of child marriage to dissuade them against the phenomenon .It will also train girls who are victims and non victims to report any force marriage proposal on them to a committee comprise of nurses, teachers, women leaders and police to receive the necessary support.

Training of Community women, young girls and other groups and in respect to acquisition of employable skills, reporting any forms force marriage and molestation on the young girls :

Training of women on liquid and bar soap, tie and dye cloths ,

* + Counseling of women , counseling of children who are victims , with skills that will equip them to know how to report any force marriage on them.
  + Tainting of community Groups to know how to deal with report of child marriage to them
  + Training on how to market their products
  + Women’s Life Skills training program
  + Children’s Rights on how to resist force marriage and access quality education
  + Teamwork skills for various community groups
* Training Children:
  + Their Rights to pursue quality education
  + Building assertiveness for quality life
  + Peer Education in leadership e.g.:
    - * Character building
      * Personality development
      * Team-work skills
      * Community Service
    - Training of community group members , service providers and other interested parties to fight child marriage

**2. Support System**

The project will provide Support system to monitor and evaluate the training to the target women regarding acquisition of their employable kills and how to ensure return on investment.

The support system will also ensure that the training given to community groups and other service providers achieve the ultimate goal of eradicating force marriage on children in the poor communities. Furthermore the Support System will ensure that the prime objective of sending girl child to school is greatly achieved.

**3. Advocacy and Awareness Activities Against Girl Child Marriage**

The project would empower women , some community Group members, and young girls to spread the message through advocacy and awareness creation activities and campaign against force marriage on young girls .

**Staffing**

The ALEI Schools and Women Empowerment Missions Project which aims at stopping girl child marriage in the three northern regions in Ghana has a fulltime staff of 6 and 8 part-time staff members. The Executive Director Alex Ababio is professional journalist and has advocacy skills in promoting development in rural Communities, the Vice President, Daniel Oppong Amando is professional teacher with Masters degree in education with a focus on child’s welfare . The Project Manager, Muller Amankwaa is a also qualified and professional teacher with great background on community development.

**Motivation**

The motivation for the ALEI Schools and Women Empowerment Missions Project is to equip women in poor communities in the three Northern regions in Ghana, community group members and other allied organization that provide services to women and girls with life skills to help eradicate force marriage on girls. We will do that by empower women in those poor communities with employable skills and give them grant or financial support to start their businesses. We want to build financial capacity of women who will be able to cater for their children especially girls to acquire quality education which will go a long way of creating a sustainable development for current and next generation of women and girls who will be contributing members of society.

**You can provide us with the following support:**

* Volunteering to raise funds ;
* Donations in cash and kind such as teaching and learning material, books, pens, clothes, menstrual pad
* Regular monthly financial contributions through www.africalei.com to support our missions work.