



Gender based violence versus early marriage resolutions

Opportunities are denied to the young people who enter into marriage at an early age and this limit or take them off from a lot opportunities presented to them for a lifetime.

They are limited to being mothers at an early age, forcing them to stay at home instead of being in school. Youth are supposed to go through three stages of being young, enjoying the beauty that comes along at this age but they assume the responsibilities of a mother and education is denied.

Poverty strikes them today for not planning of their future today because. Education is a key component in a girl's life as the African proverb says "educate a girl, educate the whole village", this is robbed from them with men with insatiable appetites towards young girls, old men, rich and heavy stomachs salivating for these tender girls and envying them to take them as wives.

It is with great joy that in Zimbabwe legislatures have adopted the bill into act which prohibits, criminalizes and penalizes both the perpetrator and the family of the girl for inciting marriages of girls under the age of 18.

It is so heart wrenching that in the rural areas girls as young as 15 are being married off to rich people for a mere 50 kg of seed and fertilizer. There must be aggressive lobbying towards this act and bring all perpetrators to book. Not only does it dismantle the girl's right to her own choices and decisions but cripples her own future and the future of the child(ren) which she will bear.

There is need for a horrendous approach to this silent massacre of children's future and I'm happy in Zimbabwe, lobby groups have launched hashtags which makes a lot of sensitization in both rural and urban areas

#GIVEUSBOOKSNOTHUSBANDS

#IMAGIRLNOTABRIDE

#YOUNGTOBEAMOTHER

<http://iromha.org>

