



**WE CAN'T TURN
OUR BACKS ON
GIRLS.**

**NOT NOW,
NOT EVER.**

*Girls need
us now more
than ever*

cintl.org



Preventing Child Marriage

Child marriage refers to any formal marriage or informal union between a child **under the age of 18 and an adult or another child.**

While the prevalence of child marriage has decreased worldwide – from one in four girls married a decade ago to approximately **one in five** today – the practice remains widespread.

**650
million**

More than **650 million women and girls alive today were married before the age of 18.**

The vast majority of children married before the age of 18 are girls, often against their will. They are less likely to remain in school and more likely to experience domestic violence.

Without change, another 120 million girls will marry before their 18th birthday by 2030!

Did you know? Adolescents who become mothers face complications in pregnancy and childbirth, are at risk for contracting HIV/AIDS and suffering domestic violence.

10th Annual Day of the Girl Breakfast



**CROSSROADS
INTERNATIONAL**

Learning about Female Genital Mutilation

What is it?

Female genital mutilation (FGM) involves the partial or total **removal of external female genitalia** or other injury to the female genital organs for **non-medical reasons**.

The impact

FGM has **no health benefits** and often leads to long-term **physical** and **psychological consequences**. Medical complications can include severe pain, prolonged bleeding, infection, infertility and even death.

200 million

At least **200 million** women and girls (aged 15 to 49) have undergone FGM. The December school holiday break is also an infamous month for FGM, it is even called *the Season of Cutting* in Tanzania.

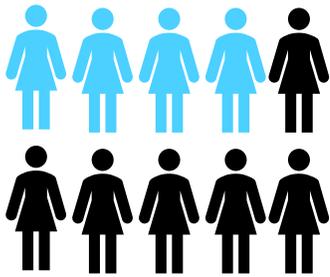
Each year, another **4 million girls** are at risk of undergoing FGM.

10th Annual Day of the Girl Breakfast



Ending Violence Against Women and Girls

In the nine countries where we work, African partner organizations are struggling to deliver services as safely and effectively as possible. Many of them are reporting increased incidence of violence and abuse of girls. Due to COVID-19, we are now looking at **10 to 15 years of regression** in the area of international development and human rights.



Gender inequality results in increased sexual abuse and violence against women and girls, and the denial of their basic human rights. Extreme poverty further increases their vulnerability.

They face difficulty accessing justice and healthcare services for **physical and psychological support** due to the traditions of their communities, but also the laws of their countries.

Globally, nearly
4 in 10
adolescent girls think
wife-beating
is justified.

The impact of
gender-based
violence is **lifelong**.
It increases the risk
of unintended
pregnancy, alcohol
abuse, suicide and
depression.

Sources: UNICEF

10th Annual Day of the Girl Breakfast

