

Empowering Community Leaders in Gofye Community, Kuje Area Council, Abuja, Nigeria to Prevent Child Marriage

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Abstract

The human rights project focus on child marriage in Gofye community, Abuja, northern Nigeria. Child marriage is one of the most practiced traditions in the northern parts of Nigeria which ultimately violates the rights of the child with its consequences recognized to have social, economic and severe health consequences that impact the development of the girl-child. This human rights project intended to address the issue of child marriages a practice in which the community elders and parents of the child arrange a marriage to an older man. The project was implemented through organizing a workshop targeted the religious leaders and clan elders/chiefs since they are the custodians of beliefs, norms and cultural practices and traditions. The idea of the project is to initiate open discussion and create an opportunity to contemplate change through participatory engagement to change community perceptions about child marriage and the possible solution to end the practice.

Key words: Child Marriage, Empowerment, Prevention, Nigeria