



Northern Ireland
**Council for
Racial Equality**

NIC107791

Question 1 Raising the Minimum Age for Marriage/Civil Partnership

We agreed to raise the minimum age for marriage/civil partnership age to 18.

Question 2 Introducing Additional Consents

The Government should replace the current parental consent requirement with a requirement for the consent of an authoritative body such as court.

Question 3 Recognition of Foreign Marriage/Civil Partnership involving under-18s

Government should refuse to recognise marriage/partnerships contracted outside the jurisdiction where one or both party is under 18. This will lead to prevent child marriage within UK jurisdiction.

Question 4 Criminalisation of Child Marriage

Government should make law to criminalise Child Marriage where one or both party is under age of 18.

Question 5-6 Risk of Forced Marriage

There is no doubt that by allowing marriage/civil partnership by people under age of 18, there is a risks of forced marriage. It is not uncommon for those poor countries to export child marriage to UK which is, in other words, the forced marriage.

Question 7 Gender impact of Child Marriage

There is no doubt that marriage/civil partnership under the age of 18 deprive young people, especially girls, opportunities such as education. Moreover, their husbands are more likely abusive and violence which will have worse impact on their mental, psychological and physical wellbeing.

Question 8 Marriage Age in Other Jurisdiction

We have serious concerns in the jurisdiction on these islands that permitted marriage for 16 and 17 years old. We should in line with the Irish Government prohibit under-18s from marrying.