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TO END CHILD
MARRIAGE

For Immediate Release

**Irvine, California Passes Resolution Against Child Marriage as
Part of Ending Child Marriage Advocacy Campaign**

August 12, 2020-Irvine, California- Global Hope 365, a nonprofit headquartered in Tustin, California, the California Coalition to End Child Marriage and a team of Child Marriage Survivor Advocates announce the first city resolution in a statewide campaign to end Child Marriage in the state of California.

The resolution, led by City Councilmembers, Farrah N. Khan and Melissa Fox, unanimously passed the Irvine City Council meeting on the evening of Tuesday, August 11, 2020. Farrah N. Khan stated as she made the motion to adopt the Resolution advocating for No Marriage Under 18, No Exceptions, "We must put an end to forced and coerced child marriage. It's about time we support the children in our state and end the statutory rape of minors." Councilmember Fox stated "Child marriage is child abuse and we must stand together to end this practice, no exceptions. Statutory rape should never be legitimized. California's children are relying on us for their protection."

Councilmembers Farrah N. Khan and Melissa Fox were advocacy leaders at the virtual *Ending Child Marriage Summit* on Wednesday, August 5, 2020. Elected officials, community leaders, nonprofit leaders, academics, survivor advocates, and concerned citizens gathered to engage in advocacy to educate and inform the public as well as policymakers and lawmakers. The participants heard perspectives from notable thought leaders including Sen. Joseph Dunn (ret.), Special Advisor to the Dean, UCI School of Law, Dr. Eleanor Kennelly Gaetan, Director of Public Policy at the National Center on Sexual Exploitation, and Jeanne Smoot, Senior Counsel for Policy and Strategy, Tahirih Justice Center.

In 46 US states, including California, legal loopholes allow predominantly adult men to marry minor girls. In the state of California and in nine other states, there is no "age floor" meaning men can marry girls of any age with parental and judicial approval. It is a falsity that parental consent protects children from marrying their abusers. Quite the opposite is true as evidenced by the survivor stories told at the Child Marriage Survivor Stories Summit on July 22, 2020.



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“Parental consent is a legal rubber stamp for the repeated statutory rape occurring during such marriage,” said California citizen and survivor, Sara Tasneem.

“Child Marriage is a bipartisan issue as it is a human rights issue. Many are shocked to learn this “legal child abuse” still exists in the United States of America. We need strong leadership from society to help raise awareness and prevent Child Marriage.” said Rima Nashashibi, President and Founder of Global Hope 365.

A full list of supporters is available here:

<https://cacoalitiontoendchildmarriage.org/coalition-members2/>

About Global Hope 365

Global Hope 365 is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization dedicated to improving the lives of women and girls, locally and worldwide, by advocating for their safety through raising awareness, education, and empowerment. We do this by collaborating with local groups and institutions to help them in solving inequitable practices based on gender. Our focus is on ending harmful practices towards women and girls such as Child Marriage, Human Trafficking, and Menstrual Restrictions.

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