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Laguna Beach Passes Resolution Against Child Marriage

City joins Global Hope 365's "Ending Child Marriage Advocacy Campaign"

LAGUNA BEACH, CA - On August 10, Laguna Beach became the tenth city over the last year to pass a resolution to end child marriage under 18, no exceptions. The resolution, passed by nine other cities in Orange County, is authored by Global Hope 365 and was introduced to Laguna Beach officials by Mayor Bob Whalen. The resolution was voted in by Mayor Bob Whalen, Mayor Pro Tem Sue Kempf, and Councilmembers Peter Blake and George Weiss.

The city joined with nine other California cities in support of Global Hope 365's mission to end child marriage under 18, no exceptions - Irvine (8/11/2020), Anaheim (8/25/2020), Newport Beach (10/13/2020), Yorba Linda (11/3/2020), Fullerton (11/17/2020), Mission Viejo (2/9/2021), Costa Mesa (3/2/2021), Culver City (5/10/2021), Tustin (5/18/2021), and now Laguna Beach (8/10/2021).

Laguna Beach's resolution announces the city's "commitment to end child marriage by calling for the "End Child Marriage Under 18, No Exceptions Law". The resolution also allows the city manager, Shohreh Dupuis, to publish educational information and content "pertaining to ending child marriage."

"As a child marriage survivor myself, I felt very strongly that I needed to represent other survivors and advocate to change the laws that allow this human rights abuse to continue. Children should not be married, period." Said Sara Tasneem, a child marriage survivor who testified during the city council meeting.

Another child marriage survivor, Elizabeth Sitton, said, "I am elated to see the City of Laguna Beach and other California cities taking a stand against child marriage. As a survivor, having been married off against my will at the age of sixteen, I reflect on the horror I felt at seeing every adult in my path to the altar turn a blind eye. Now I see the dominos falling on their way to Sacramento where



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we will once again appeal to the Governor to end child marriage in our state. My deepest appreciation for the support that is being shown in all of these efforts and for Global Hope 365 who has been driving this mission.”

Residents of Laguna Beach seem to approve of the resolution so far: “As a resident of Laguna Beach, I am so grateful for the city council standing against child marriage and for the protection of young girls. I hope all cities in California will do the same. This type of child abuse needs to end now. If we don't end it, who will?” says Tamarra Farrar, a family lawyer.

“My parents brought us to this country for human rights and freedom. I was shocked to find out from Rima that child marriage is legal in California and that there is no age limit. This issue is about human rights. I am glad that I was able to help Rima raise the issue with our mayor and build support one City at a time until it gets to the finish line.” Ray Tang, Laguna Beach resident.

A full list of supporters is available here:

<https://cacoalitiontoen>

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 other forms of Gender-Based Violence. .

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