

# MORE THAN BRIDES ALLIANCE

This is our first Newsletter in 2021. In this edition, you will find a review of our **Are You Listening?** campaign and **Brunch with Parliament** event as well as an updated **Save the Date** for our **International Learning Event**.

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ARE YOU LISTENING?!

**Are You Listening?** is an online advocacy campaign organized by the **More Than Brides Alliance**. It highlighted the **impact of COVID-19** on adolescent girls and brought attention to the absence of their voices from the pandemic response. The campaign highlighted the impact on girls through three topics: **education**, **sexual and reproductive health and rights**, and **gender-based violence**.

Initially started in the summer of 2020, the **Are You Listening?** campaign was revived during the **16 Days of Activism** Against Gender-Based Violence. Throughout the 16 Days, we collaborated with **Girls Not Brides** to share stories of girls, supportive men and boys, and key partner staff. Overall, our campaign reached **1.1 million people** on social media!

Have you seen the campaign yet?  
Visit our website to explore the stories [here](#).

Along with our campaign, we had a **Call to Action** to demand policymakers put girls at the centre of the COVID-19 response and accelerate their efforts to end child marriage. **102** organizations and **183** individuals signed it!

Want to make your voice heard too?  
Sign your name or that of your organization [here](#).



We concluded the **Are You Listening?** campaign with a **Brunch with Parliament** event on 11 January. This online event welcomed 5 Dutch candidate parliamentarians to commit to taking forward the **Are You Listening?** Call to Action in their potential tenure following the Dutch elections in 2021.

#### In attendance were:

- Alexander Hammelburg, D66
- Anne Kuik, CDA
- Lenna Vromans, PvdA
- Nevin Özütok, GroenLinks
- Queeny Rajkowski, VVD

*"Only by making sure that a diverse crowd of young people are present at the table, we believe that our policies and practice can be future-proof and relevant for the youth of today & tomorrow."  
- H.E. Pascale Grotenhuis*

To highlight the importance of action driven by the **Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs** to end child marriage globally, the **Dutch Ambassador for Women's Rights and Gender Equality, Pascale Grotenhuis**, reflected on the Ministry's achievements and its vision to end child marriage.

The event also showcased the **More Than Brides Alliance** and the **Are You Listening?** campaign's reach and impact through the presentations of Sarah Harris, Alliance Coordinator, and Anbreen Ajaib, Executive Director of Bedari. The session was moderated by Esther de Vreede, Director of Programs of Simavi.

Read the highlights from the event or watch the recording [here!](#)

## SAVE THE DATE!

4 March 2021



The causes of child marriage are diverse and context-specific. However, one consistently powerful driver across contexts is **gender inequality**, especially concerning norms related to the **sexuality of adolescent girls**. However, these causes of child marriage are insufficiently addressed, documented, and exchanged in child marriage programming.

From 1-4 March, the **More Than Brides Alliance** is hosting an **International Learning Event** with girls, researchers, practitioners, and policymakers across 9 countries.

Building on the lessons learned from research evidence and implementation experience, together we will **Learn & Exchange** about the link between child marriage and sexuality, **Reflect** on how programmatic approaches and interventions can better address the sexuality-related drivers of child marriage, and **Prepare to Act!** on individual and collective levels to better address these drivers.

We invite you to join us on **4 March from 9-12 CET** of this learning event as we **Prepare to Act!** Participants from our Learning Project share their actions and recommendations on how to best address sexuality-related drivers in child marriage programs.

Click [here](#) to register.

The **More Than Brides Alliance** thanks you for your support.  
We hope you stay safe and healthy.

In partnership with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of The Netherlands.

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