



Jubilee Campaign Recognizes International Day of the Girl Child



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Today, 11 October 2021, Jubilee Campaign joins the world in recognizing [International Day of the Girl Child](#). We acknowledge the influence of numerous girl leaders around the world - renowned environmental activist [Greta Thunberg](#); education activist [Zuriel Oduwole](#); [Payal Jangid](#), activist against child marriage and labor; [Naomi Wadler](#), activist against gun violence; and many more. At the same time, we wish to highlight the millions of girls across the globe who are subjected to discrimination and violence on account of both their age and their gender. In this article, we would like to share some of the situations that Jubilee Campaign works on with regards to advocating for equality and safety for women and girls.

Trafficking and Sexual Exploitation of North Korean Girls

Regrettably, there exists a substantial market for in the prostitution and cybersex industries for North Korean women and girls. It is a disgustingly common occurrence that in preparation for their defection from North Korea, girls will encounter 'brokers' that make false promises to these women and girls of a free life in China and/or South Korea; in reality, they are often sold into forced prostitution, forced marriage, and the exploitative cybersex industry against their will. In Korea Future Initiative's 2019 report [Sex Slaves](#), it is

revealed that the most common demographic for victims of sexual slavery are North Korean girls and women between the ages of 12 years old and 29 years old; however, girls as young as nine years old have been targeted specifically for cybersex trafficking by which they are forced to perform sexual activities on camera to a paying audience for days and hours on end. Below are a few testimonies of women who experience and/or witnessed these atrocities:

"I was 14 years old [and] my mother's cousin [in China] arranged for me to work in a garment factory in Yanbian [...] I crossed the river at night [with a broker] and was driven to a house [...] I realized that everything had been a lie when I arrived [...] A 36-year-old man bought me for ¥24,000 Chinese Yuan (\$3500 USD) [...] I escaped before his mother wanted me to have a child."

"There is a detention centre in Tumen [China] [...] Many [North Koreans] who are arrested end up there [...] I will not forget two sisters aged 12 and 14. The oldest had blood stains on her trousers. [...] I was told the sisters were both raped by a man in China who had pretended to help them."

Jubilee Campaign submits annual reports to the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women discussing these human rights violations. Please see the clickable document image below:

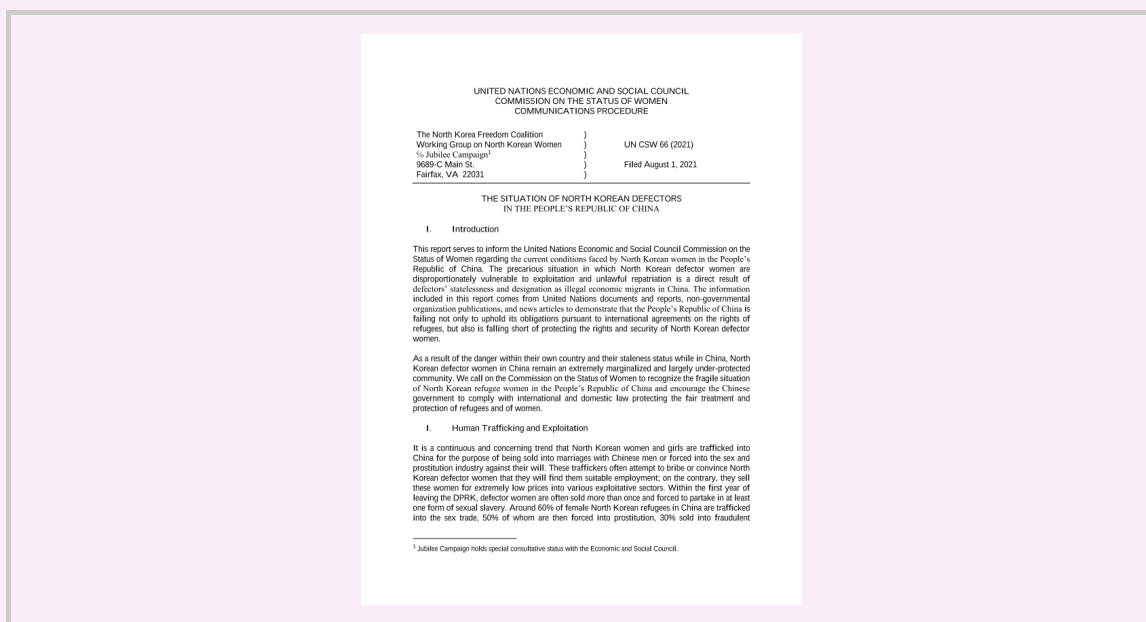


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Abduction and Forced Marriage of Religious Minority Girls in Pakistan

In predominantly Muslim Pakistan, we have increasingly seen in recent years reports of religious minority girls - most often Christian or Hindu - being kidnapped by radical Muslim men, forced to abandon their faith and convert to



Islam, and even coerced to marry their abductors against their will despite that they are children. Concurrently, Pakistan's legal and judicial system offers little remedy for these girls; police authorities will accept fraudulent documents claiming that the victims are over the age of 18, and even when evidence is provided that the girls are underaged, it is ignored and overlooked. At the same time, girls often remain in the captivity of their kidnappers during trial proceedings, meaning they are reluctant to testify against the perpetrators that they must return to at the end of the day. All the while, the broader radical Muslim community pressures and even threatens court judges into ruling in favor of the perpetrators rather than the victims.

Perhaps the most widely known story is the abduction and forced marriage of 13-year-old Christian girl **Arzoo Raja** to her 45-year-old Muslim neighbor Azhar Ali in October 2020. Arzoo's family faced tremendous difficulty advocating for Arzoo's release and safe return until the case drew international attention. While the court initially ruled that the marriage was legal, in November it found instead that Ali had committed a crime by marrying a child; in December, however, Ali was released from prison on bail. Arzoo is currently safe in a government-run shelter.

Arzoo's case is just one of many. In June 2020, three Pakistani men abducted 12-year-old Christian girl **Farah Shaheen** before one of the perpetrators raped her, shackled her, and forced her to work as a servant; she was also forcibly converted to Islam. Authorities rescued Farah in December but dropped her case as she alleged she had willingly married her kidnapper and converted religions, though it is believed she made these statements under coercion. In March 2021, five men abducted 13-year-old Hindu girl **Kavita Bai**; a case has been opened into the circumstances of her kidnapping.

In November 2020, Jubilee Campaign published a report Abduction, Conversion and Child Marriage of Religious Minority Girls in Pakistan. Please see the clickable document image below:



November 2020

**Abduction, Conversion
and Child Marriage**
of Religious Minority Girls in Pakistan



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**Mass Abductions of
Schoolgirls by**

Militant Groups in Nigeria



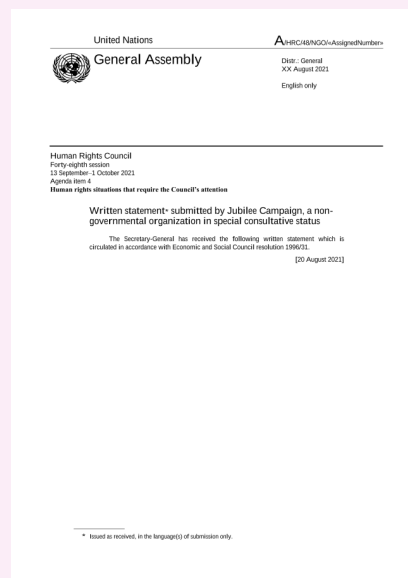
In mid-April 2021, the world acknowledged the **7th Anniversary** of the Chibok Kidnapping; in 2014, Boko Haram militants stormed the Government Girls Secondary School in Chibok, Nigeria, and kidnapped 276

Christian schoolgirls. The incident sparked a worldwide movement to #BringBackOurGirls, and though the majority have since been freed, more than 100 of the abducted Chibok girls remain in captivity to this day. In March 2021, one of the freed Chibok girls, Naomi Adamu, revealed that Boko Haram militants repeatedly urged her to convert to Islam and marry a fighter, though she bravely resisted.

In **February 2018**, Boko Haram faction group Islamic State West Africa Province (ISWAP) kidnapped 110 schoolgirls from Government Girls' Science and Technical College in Dapchi, Yobe State. In the months following the incident, each of the abducted girls was released with the exception of then-14-year-old Christian girl **Leah Sharibu**. The released Dapchi girls revealed that ISWAP maintained Leah's captivity because, similarly to Naomi Adamu, she resisted demands to abandon Christianity; Leah still remains with ISWAP today. It has unfortunately been confirmed, however, that Leah, now 18 years old, has been forced to marry a militant fighter and has had a child.

As recently as late February 2021, a group of armed assailants **kidnapped 317 schoolgirls** in a midnight ambush on Jangebe Government Girls' Secondary School in Zamfara State. The girls were fortunately **released within the week** following the abduction.

In August 2021, Jubilee Campaign raised the issue of school kidnappings in Nigeria to the Interactive Dialogue with the UN Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of slavery, including its causes and consequences. Please see the clickable document image below:



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