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INVITE

# Leveraging birth and marriage registration

26

May 2025

11:30–13:00  
Dakar/GMT

13:30–15:00  
CET

## TO PREVENT CHILD MARRIAGE IN 11 COUNTRIES IN WEST & CENTRAL AFRICA

### WHAT

Based on findings from a desk review of laws in 11 countries in West and Central Africa, join us to explore how existing birth and marriage registration legislative frameworks can potentially contribute to preventing child marriage. The interactions between these frameworks are specifically examined in Benin, Burkina Faso, Central African Republic, Chad, Democratic Republic of Congo, Guinea, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Senegal and Sierra Leone.

Having a requirement of proof of age prior to celebrating and/or registering a marriage, reinforces the importance of a lifecycle approach to civil registration. Where the couple is required to provide legal proof of age, it is the civil registration office's responsibility to verify age using existing records. When individual events are handled separately, the registration system fails to benefit from its very strength. The State should be able to verify the age of the child through its own records.

### OBJECTIVE

During the webinar, we will hear from Senior Government officials about their countries' legal frameworks and its enforcement, and will discuss the operational realities, barriers, how they are being addressed and lessons learned to enforce the legal age of marriage as a means to prevent child marriage.

### WHO

- **Ann Skelton**  
CRC Committee Chairperson (2023–2025) and Professor, University of Pretoria and Leiden
- **M. Joseph Sunday Sinnah**  
Chief Director of the Ministry of Gender and Children's Affairs, Government of Sierra Leone
- **Government(s) tbc**
- **Karin Heissler**  
Regional Advisor Child Protection, UNICEF WCARO

INTERPRETATION IN ENGLISH AND FRENCH

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