### Arguments Against Child Marriage in Islam



## What is Marriage in Islam?

a legal contract between two parties who have consented to marry the other of their own free will, without force or compulsion from family members, witnesses, or community members.



And among His signs is this, that He created for you mates from among yourselves, that you may dwell in peace and tranquility with them, and He has put love and mercy between your (hearts).

Qur'an 30:21



#### What is Consent?

the giving of permission for an action or event to occur that is free of compulsion, force, or threats



A woman without a husband (or divorced or a widow) must not be married until she is consulted, and a virgin must not be married until her permission is sought.

Sahih Muslim 1419a | Book 16, Hadith 75



# What does the Quran say about consent?

the Quran repeatedly mentions consent, from both parties, as a fixed requirement for a *legitimate* Islamic marriage to take place. Without informed consent from both parties, the marriage is in violation of both the Quran and Hadith.



When a man gives his daughter in marriage and she dislikes it, the marriage shall be annulled." Once a virgin girl came to the Prophet and said that her father had married her to a man against her wishes. The Prophet gave her the right to repudiate the marriage

Abu Dawud



## Quranic requirements to enter into a marriage

- mental maturity to give informed consent
- physical maturity
- ability to enter into a *meethaqan* galezaan or "solemn covenant", a serious legal contract
- the ability to properly manage their own finances



# Can a child consent to marriage?

based on the Quranic requirements of marriage, stating a child can provide consent contradicts the teachings of the Quran, which make it explicit that an individual must be of sound age and mind to give their consent.



According to the Quran, marriage is a contract between two consenting adults of sound mind. So in order for anyone to enter into a marriage contract, you have to negotiate that, and so a child is not eligible and a forced marriage is definitely not consensual.

#### Ani Zonneveld

