



September 2016

IAFL Press Release : Position on Forced and Child Marriage

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

17 SEPTEMBER 2016

IAFL SUPPORTS LEGISLATIVE EFFORTS TO END FORCED AND CHILD MARRIAGE

New Delhi, India - On September 17, 2016, at its Annual General Meeting, the International Academy of Family Lawyers (IAFL) approved a standing/legislative position against forced and child marriage, worldwide. The official position of the IAFL is as follows:

Forced marriage and child marriage are serious problems that tragically affect the human rights of thousands of children and young persons, worldwide. The International Academy of Family Lawyers (IAFL) takes a standing position opposing forced and child marriage. The IAFL further stands in supporting legislative efforts across the globe to combat forced and child marriage. Therefore, to better ensure full and free consent to marriage, the International Academy of Family Lawyers supports legislation providing that the legal age to marry should be set at 18 (or above, if the age of majority is higher) in all states/countries, with an exception only for emancipated minors who are empowered to advocate for themselves.

IAFL efforts to end forced and child marriage have been spearheaded by new IAFL President Nancy Zalusky Berg of Minneapolis, Minnesota, USA and Anne-Marie Hutchinson, OBE, QC (Hon) of London, England.

IAFL is a worldwide association of practising lawyers who are recognised by their peers as the most experienced and skilled family law specialists in their respective countries. IAFL was formed in 1986 as the International Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers to improve the practice of law and administration of justice in the area of divorce and family law throughout the world. See www.iafl.com.

ENDS

For further comment, please contact IAFL Executive Director, Donna Goddard on +44 (0)1245 380010 or e-mail donna.goddard@iafl.com or IAFL USA Chapter President Elect, Jorge Cestero on + 1 (561) 689-4378 or e-mail jcestero@sasserlaw.com

© 2016 International Academy of Family Lawyers