

Human Rights Council – 41st Session

Resolution: Consequences of child, early and forced marriage – tabled amendment L.42

12 July 2019

Australian Statement: Explanation of Vote

We cannot accept amendment L.42, which seeks to delete the references to intimate partner violence.

Intimate partner violence is a known consequence of child, early and forced marriage. Women who are married as children are more likely to report physical or sexual intimate partner violence compared to those who marry as adults. Girls in child, early and forced marriages are often more at risk of intimate partner violence due to the unequal power dynamics between the child and their older partner; social isolation; and lack of female education and autonomy.

Intimate partner violence upon these children is a serious human rights abuse, and requires the attention of this Council. Given this resolution focuses on the consequences of child, early and forced marriage, the significance of intimate partner violence in this particular context is undeniable.

Amendment L.42 seeks to narrow the scope of violence against women and girls addressed in this resolution. Failing to recognise this form of violence overlooks the complex and various ways in which the rights of women and girls are violated within intimate relationships, leaving them exposed to abuse.

Australia will vote against this amendment, and we urge members of this Council to do the same.

145 Words