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AMNESTY
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FORCED TO MARRY AS YOUNG AS 11

GIRLS FORCED INTO MARRIAGE BURKINA FASO

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At 13, Maria* was forced to marry a 70-year-old man who already had five wives. When she resisted, her father told her: “If you don’t go to join your husband, I will kill you.”

Across Burkina Faso, thousands of girls and young women like Maria are being forced into early marriage. More than half of all girls are married off before they turn 18. Some are as young as 11.

They’re expected to have as many children as their husbands want, regardless of their own wishes or the threat that early pregnancy poses to their health and life.

Once married, many are set to cook, clean, fetch water and work in the fields, dawn to dusk. Very few have the chance to go to school.

Some girls are doing all they can to escape forced marriages, despite huge pressure from their families and wider society. Maria walked nearly 170km over three days to seek refuge at a shelter for young girls.

Forced and early marriages are banned by Burkina Faso’s Constitution and international law, but the authorities keep turning a blind eye.

Burkina Faso’s government must enforce the law and protect girls and young women from forced marriages. You can help.

** Not her real name.*

**WRITE A LETTER
CHANGE A LIFE**



Write to the government of Burkina Faso

Urge the Justice and Human Rights Minister to stop turning a blind eye and meet the country’s obligation to prevent forced and early marriages.

Ministry of Justice and Human Rights
Avenue de l’Indépendance
Ouagadougou 01 BP 526
Burkina Faso



Show the girls they are not alone!

Write a message of support to the girls and young women in Burkina Faso who have fled early marriages and the shelter workers helping them defend their human rights. Send your postcard to:

Amnesty International Burkina
08 Av. Houari Boumediene
Ouagadougou 08 BP 11344
Burkina Faso