

Teenage Pregnancies/"Child Brides"

Medical evidence shows us that having a baby before the age of 18 is much riskier to the health of the mother and indeed the baby than waiting till your early twenties. The younger the mother the higher the risk. A young mother's health may be permanently damaged and her ability to have further children can be compromised.

With respect to your country:

Country Name: _____

1. What is the age of consent for sexual intercourse and for marriage?
2. What is the incidence of teenage pregnancy? Can you find any idea of the spread - e.g. how many pregnancies below 14, below 16, below 18?
3. Are any groups within your country more at risk than others?
4. Are there any laws or practices that encourage youthful pregnancy or make it difficult to prevent or that may discourage a young girl who finds herself pregnant from getting effective medical treatment?
5. What other organisations are working to address any issues identified in 4 above?
6. What activities or laws have proven effective and what have not in addressing these issues?
7. Are there organisations not currently active that you feel should be helping to address the issues raised by 4?
8. What could lawyers/members of the IBA do that would help?

If you require any information or assistance, please contact Andrew Fyffe - (arf0003@students.stir.ac.uk).