

Hitting the Streets: Ending Child Marriage in Nepal through Drama

As part of the commitment and efforts of religious leaders in Nepal to intervene on issues affecting children, Religions for Peace Nepal in partnership with Religions for Peace Asia and International organized a street drama in Saptari area.

The contents and script of the drama was done in collaboration with the UNICEF Nepal office through Ms. Sanju Bhattarai. UNICEF Nepal is part of the country offices implementing the [Faith and Positive Change for Children Initiative](#) in coordination with UNICEF South Asia Regional Office.

The video features a Hindu priest and a Muslim Imam who are recorded making citations and references from their respective sacred texts that clearly show that child marriage is indeed contrary to their faith teachings and beliefs.

To watch the Street Play on Child Marriage, please go to this link: <https://youtu.be/cF2sCIPBYc8>



The Summary of the Street Drama:

The drama starts with a girl giving thanks to her family for letting her study, she finally has found a job as a teacher and got a promotion. The mother is happy that she didn't let her be married early. She is happy that her daughter is earning. Her father also agrees that it was right decision to let her study and fulfill her dreams. She is the bread winner of the house. Her uncle shows up and says that he was the one who advised the family against early marriage since he had experienced the horrors of it. A priest comes in and gets into the conversation about child marriage, he talks about the traditions but everyone there convince him about the harm that the child marriage can do. They all agree that the practicing child marriage is wrong and we should all stop it.



The Street Drama to End Child Marriage was first shown on the street of Bhediya, Saptari on December 30, 2018, with more than 150 local audiences. A post-drama evaluation was conducted to get the feedback of the viewers. Interestingly, most of the viewers knew what the drama was all about and the majority said that the proper age to marry is around 25 years old.



Religions for Peace Nepal uses innovative activities that reach out to communities and audiences with messaging that helps them reflect and challenge their cultural and social norms. Such efforts contribute to creating awareness while mobilising partnerships and resources to help end harmful cultural practices and norms.

[*Religions for Peace*](#) is the world's oldest, largest and most representative multi-religious leadership platform, advancing common action among the world's faith communities. Unlike any other interfaith organisation, *Religions for Peace* works through legally registered, representative, multi-religious

platforms ([Interreligious Councils](#)) in over 95 countries and 6 regions. We convene to catalyse and promote multi-religious collaboration for the common good. In Asia, [Religions for Peace Asia](#) is our regional affiliate founded in 1976. *Religions for Peace* Asia is part of the global *Religions for Peace* movement with a mission to advance common action among religious communities in Asia and the Pacific for peace.

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