



Procedure file

Basic information		
RSP - Resolutions on topical subjects	2017/2648(RSP)	Procedure completed
Resolution on Bangladesh, including child marriages		
Subject 6.10.08 Fundamental freedoms, human rights, democracy in general		
Geographical area Bangladesh		

Key players	
European Parliament	

Key events			
06/04/2017	Results of vote in Parliament		
06/04/2017	Debate in Parliament		
06/04/2017	Decision by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading	T8-0127/2017	Summary
06/04/2017	End of procedure in Parliament		

Technical information	
Procedure reference	2017/2648(RSP)
Procedure type	RSP - Resolutions on topical subjects
Procedure subtype	Urgent debate or resolution
Legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 135
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed

Documentation gateway					
Motion for a resolution		B8-0252/2017	06/04/2017	EP	
Motion for a resolution		B8-0254/2017	06/04/2017	EP	
Motion for a resolution		B8-0255/2017	06/04/2017	EP	
Motion for a resolution		B8-0257/2017	06/04/2017	EP	
Motion for a resolution		B8-0260/2017	06/04/2017	EP	
Motion for a resolution		B8-0262/2017	06/04/2017	EP	
Motion for a resolution		B8-0264/2017	06/04/2017	EP	
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T8-0127/2017	06/04/2017	EP	Summary
Joint motion for resolution		RC-B8-0252/2017	06/04/2017		

The European Parliament adopted by 557 votes to 23, with 45 abstentions, a resolution on Bangladesh, including child marriages.

The text adopted in plenary was tabled by the EPP, S&D, ECR, ALDE, Greens/EFA and EFDD groups.

Members noted that according to recent UN data, Bangladesh continues to have one of the worlds highest rates of child marriage, and the highest rate in Asia. 52 % of girls in Bangladesh are married by the time they reach the age of 18 and 18 % by the time they reach 15.

Members recalled that the Government of Bangladesh pledged at the Girl Summit of July 2014 to reduce by one third the number of girls marrying between the ages of 15 and 18 by 2021, to eliminate marriages involving children under 15 by 2021.

Members strongly regretted the adoption of the Child Marriage Restraint Act of 2017 and the loopholes contained in that legislation which provide legal authorisation for child marriage. It called on the Government of Bangladesh to amend the Act so as to close the loopholes and outlaw all marriages involving children.

Members considered that child marriage can be effectively tackled through the promotion of human rights and human dignity and public social policies. They, therefore, called on the Bangladesh authorities to systematically involve communities and civil society, including NGOs and childrens organisations, to tackle the root causes of child marriage in Bangladesh, and to raise awareness in schools.

Freedom of expression: Members urged the Bangladesh authorities to condemn the continuing horrendous acts against freedom of expression and to act to put an immediate end to all acts of violence, harassment, intimidation and censorship against journalists, bloggers and civil society.

The Commission and the EU Delegation in Bangladesh are called upon to raise these issues with the Bangladesh authorities, and on the European External Action Service to raise the issue of the Act at the next EU-Bangladesh Joint Commission meeting.

Lastly, Parliament called on the EU to use all available instruments to support the Government of Bangladesh in respecting its international human rights obligations.