



### 3. Amendment of section 2

Section 2 of the Principal Act is amended by inserting immediately after the definition of "child abuse," a new definition –

"child marriage" means a marriage contracted between a child and an adult or between a child and another child."

### 4. Amendment of section 19

Section 19 of the Principal Act is amended in paragraph (a) by inserting immediately after the words "life of the child", a comma and the words "such as female circumcision".

### 5. Amendment of section 24

Section 24 of the Principal Act is amended by substituting for it, the following –

#### "24. Prohibition of child marriage

(1) A child shall not be capable of contracting a valid marriage and child marriage is prohibited.

(2) A parent, guardian, or any other adult who willfully –

(a) contracts a marriage on behalf of a child;

(b) causes a child to contract a marriage; or

(c) forces a child to contract a marriage,

commits an offence and is liable on conviction to imprisonment not exceeding twenty years.

(3) An adult who willfully –

(a) aids and abets a parent, guardian, or any other adult to commit an offence under sub-section (2); or

(b) conspires with a parent, guardian, or any other adult to commit an offence under sub-section (2),

commits an offence and is liable on conviction to imprisonment not exceeding twenty years.

(4) An adult who becomes aware of the commission of an offence under sub-section (2) by a parent, guardian, or any other adult and intentionally fails to report it, commits an offence and is liable on conviction to imprisonment not exceeding ten years.

(5) The High Court of The Gambia has jurisdiction in respect of the commission of an offence under sub-sections (2), (3) and (4)."

#### **6. Amendment of section 25**

Section 25 of the Principal Act is amended by substituting for it, the following –

#### **"25. Prohibition of child betrothal, etc.**

(1) A parent, guardian, or any other adult who willfully –

(a) betroths a child to any person; or

(b) makes a child the subject of a dowry transaction,

commits an offence and is liable on conviction to imprisonment not exceeding twenty years."

(2) The High Court of The Gambia has jurisdiction in respect of the commission of an offence under sub-section (1)."

Children's (Amendment) Act, 2016

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PASSED in the National Assembly this 21st day of July, in the year  
of Our Lord Two Thousand and Sixteen.

D. C. M. Kebbeh  
*Clerk of the National Assembly.*

THIS PRINTED IMPRESSION has been carefully compared by me with the Bill  
which has passed in the National Assembly, and found by me to be a true and  
correct copy of the said Bill.

D. C. M. Kebbeh  
*Clerk of the National Assembly.*