What You Can Do About Forced and Early Marriage in NYC

Nationally
- Adopt the Convention on the Rights of the Child or similar legislation that ensures that no child is married before the age of 18
- Develop protections that protect youth regardless of residency or nationality from forced and early marriage

State Level
- Make the age to be legally married 18 in NYC
- Develop directives in Administration of Children’s Services that state that marriage under the age of 18 is contrary to the well-being of a child
- Develop protocols that can identify and prevent forced and early marriage
- Develop protections that protect youth regardless of residency or nationality from forced and early marriage

Schools
- Adopt and/or screening tools that screen for students at-risk for forced and early marriage
- Obtain training on forced and early marriage and how to identify youth at risk
- Don’t be afraid to ask. Facilitate discussions about healthy relationships among the youth across the cultures represented in your school.
- Learn from community members. Reach out to culturally and linguistically specific institutions and partner with them to learn more about marriage and family in your community.
- Develop policies that protect the privacy of youth such as giving a student a choice of who their emergency contact should be.
- Develop safety planning protocols for those youth at risk for forced and early marriage.

Health Care Professionals
- Develop screening questions that address forced and early marriage during the intake process.
- Discuss sexual and reproductive health options for those young women at risk of forced and early marriage
- Discuss contraceptive options for those young women at risk for forced and early marriage
- Develop safety planning protocols for those youth at risk for forced and early marriage.
- Develop relationships with culturally and linguistically specific community based organizations that young people at risk for forced and early marriage can be referred to.