

From: Champlain Valley Amnesty International
Sent: Tuesday, February 14, 2023 2:32 PM
To: Martin LaLonde
Subject: Child Marriage in Vermont - H148

Our Champlain Valley Amnesty International organization is a co-sponsor of Unchained At Last. Child marriage is a violation of children's human rights and a form of gender-based violence that denies children of their childhood. Even though this occurrence might not be of epic proportions in Vermont, there is a concern that these young girls are forced into adulthood before they are physically and mentally ready. They are far less likely to stay in school, with lifelong economic impacts. At the same time, there is a high probability that they no longer have a voice in expressing their opinions and concerns, which is a universal rights.

I have been notified that the House Judiciary Committee will be holding a hearing on H148 this Thursday. Please voice our support for this bill.

Sincerely,

Mary Ellen Tamulonis
CVAI Facilitator