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Mountain Plains Business Conference

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### COVID's Impact on Child Marriages

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Co-presenters: Toni Hill and Bruce Elder

### **COVID's Impact on Child Marriages**

Marriage of children under the age of 18 years is a serious global issue disproportionately impacting young girls. According to UNICEF, twelve (12) million girls under 18 years are married annually and 650 million women and girls were child brides. COVID has impacted every aspect of society including underage marriages. Child marriages are projected to increase by ten (10) million as a result of the pandemic. This presentation will examine the various factors related to COVID's impact on the practice of underage marriage and mitigating strategies to reduce this practice.

Word count 90

INTENDED TRACK: Family Business and **Social Sciences**

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