



This eight-year-old Afghani girl is engaged.

Roshan Kasem, near left, enjoys a final free moment on the day of her betrothal to a 55-year-old man.

EDITORIAL |

# Help end the tragedy of child marriage

When Texas law enforcement raided the Yearning for Zion Ranch this spring, they found that at least 31 girls—some as young as 14—had been forced into marriage and had children or were pregnant. The media devoured the story, and it was shocking, but had journalists looked beyond our borders, they would have discovered that child marriage is common in parts of Africa, South Asia and Latin America. In fact, one in seven girls in all developing countries except China marries before she's 15.

“Girls must never be treated as a commodity to be given to a man.”

—REPRESENTATIVE BETTY MCCOLLUM

Tragically most child brides lead depressingly similar lives. A girl is typically married to a much older man she may not have even met. She must drop out of school and faces grave health threats. “Young brides are at high risk of HIV/AIDS because their husbands often have multiple partners,” says Adrienne Germain, president of the International Women’s Health Coalition. Many child brides are victims of domestic violence, and complications from pregnancy is the top killer of adolescent girls in developing countries. Sadly, this practice is often an act of economic survival. “Parents think girls need to be married to have good lives,” says Margaret E. Greene, a director at the International Center for Research on Women.

Putting an end to child marriage requires both humanitarian efforts and legislative change. Urge congressional representatives from your state to support the International Protecting Girls by Preventing Child Marriage Act, introduced by Representative Betty McCollum (D-Minn.). (Visit [glamour.com/news](http://glamour.com/news) to see a sample letter.) “Whether American, Ethiopian or Nicaraguan,” says McCollum, “girls deserve the right to enter adulthood and decide for themselves who their husband will be.”

Go to [glamour.com/news](http://glamour.com/news) to learn how to help.

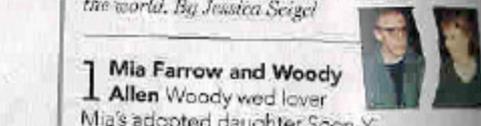


THE COUNTDOWN |

## 10 most spectacular breakups of all time

The stories from *Splitville* that shocked the world. By Jessica Seigel

- 1 Mia Farrow and Woody Allen** Woody wed lover Mia's adopted daughter Soon-Yi.
- 2 Eleanor of Aquitaine and Louis VII** Three centuries of unrest can be traced to the queen's split from the French monarch.
- 3 Napoleon and Josephine** The empress was kicked to the curb for failing to produce an heir.
- 4 Jane and Jack Welch** Her big settlement from GE's CEO confirmed: "Corporate wife" is a real job.
- 5 Sonny and Cher** Ten years after they told the world "I Got You, Babe," the couple untied the knot.
- 6 Jennifer Aniston and Brad Pitt** Remember how shocking the breakup of America's sweethearts was?
- 7 Regis Philbin and Kathie Lee Gifford** Their on-air chemistry zinged—till Chatty Kathie took a hike.
- 8 Ike and Tina Turner** Three cheers for Tina for ditching her abusive husband and manager.
- 9 Madonna and Sandra Bernhard** The pair hinted they were more than friends, then didn't speak for years.
- 10 Laverne and Shirley** Fans were stricken when Penny Marshall and Cindy Williams reportedly feuded and parted ways.



Expert panelists: Divorce lawyer Karl Felder, novelist Terry McMillan and history professor Rodrick Phillips, author of *Untying the Knot: A Short History of Divorce*.

AND FARRAW: ARIE BURS/EVERETT PHOTO; PITT AND ANISTON: MARK ARONSON/RETNA; WELCH: JEFFREY MATTIOLI/GETTY IMAGES; TURNER: JEFFREY MATTIOLI/GETTY IMAGES; MADONNA AND BERNHARD: JEFFREY MATTIOLI/GETTY IMAGES; LUTZ: JEFFREY MATTIOLI/GETTY IMAGES