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At the age of 13, I was violently raped and left on the side of the road. I was covered in bruises and bitemarks and was therefore not able to hide it from my father. When it came to light, my parents decided that I should be married off. Five months later, I was married to a man I didn't know who was more than twice my age. No one asked me. I was a naive and innocent little girl. No one stopped it. No one stood up and questioned if this was right or wrong. You have the power to do that today.

At 13 years old, I lived with this man, being raped repeatedly as a mere possession until he tossed me aside after a little more than a year and I became homeless and lived on the streets. I never attended high school. I was not able to get a job because I had no training and was not old enough to be hired. I survived by trading my body for shelter and food. After all, it seemed to carry no other value.

The consequences of the events of my childhood will remain with me for the duration of my lifetime. I fight my demons every day and use my voice against injustice whenever possible. If my efforts and words to you as a survivor and an advocate can save one child from living the hell that comes as a result of children getting married, then I am asking you to hear my testimony and protect future generations of innocent children from this fate. You have the power to do that today.

Thank you for hearing my testimony.