

Raise minimum marriage age for Muslim girls, PH urges
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The coalition's women leaders say underage marriages have negative effects.

KUALA LUMPUR: Pakatan Harapan's women leaders today urged Putrajaya to set the legal marriage age of Muslims whether male or female at 18.

Wanita PKR leader Zuraida Kamaruddin questioned why the government currently allowed Muslim girls to get married at the age of 16.

"Why is this so?" she asked at a press conference at the DAP headquarters here today.

She said increasing the legal marriage age of Muslim girls would ensure better marital life.

Islamic Family Law enactments nationwide currently set the minimum legal age for females at 16, while males must be 18.

A marriage involving Muslim girls below the age of 16 must get approval from the Shariah Courts.

Meanwhile DAP's Kulai MP, Teo Nie Ching said the issue of underage marriage was not trivial, saying child marriages had proven to have negative effects, both mentally and physically, as well as increase the risk of domestic and sexual abuse.

There were close to 9,000 underage marriages between 2010 and 2015, of which 6,268 were Muslim.

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