

**UNIVERSITI TEKNOLOGI MARA**

**A LEGAL STUDY ON THE LAWS  
REGULATING CHILD MARRIAGE  
AMONG MUSLIM GIRLS IN  
MALAYSIA**

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Thesis submitted in fulfillment  
of the requirements for the degree of  
**Master of Legal Studies**

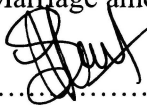
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June 2017

## AUTHOR'S DECLARATION

I declare that the work in this thesis was carried out in accordance with the regulations of Universiti Teknologi MARA. It is original and is the results of my own work, unless otherwise indicated or acknowledged as referenced work. This thesis has not been submitted to any other academic institution or non-academic institution for any degree or qualification.

I, hereby, acknowledge that I have been supplied with the Academic Rules and Regulations for Post Graduate, Universiti Teknologi MARA, regulating the conduct of my study and research.

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## ABSTRACT

This study is carried out to identify the current laws and practices of the underage marriage system in Malaysia and whether the laws are adequate to provide protection to underage Muslim girls. Other than that, this study also examines underage marriage laws or norms as well as practices in Jordan and Morocco for a comparative analysis. Qualitative approach is adopted as a method to analyze the Islamic Family Law Federal Territories Act 1984 and other relevant laws as well as Syariah Court procedures regarding underage marriage. A semi-structured interview has been conducted with an academician with expertise in this area. The data showed that existing laws and procedures are not comprehensive enough to protect underage Muslim girls in Malaysia. This study has identified potential gaps in domestic legal system in providing protection for underage girls. Findings of this research show that underage marriage is not only about legal issue, but it is also a socioeconomic and sexual reproductive issue. Thus, this study proposes several promising legal and policy strategies to ensure the relevant authorities in making the best judgment regarding underage marriage applications. Perhaps it can be a guide, hence promoting and protecting the right of the girl child in Malaysia.

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