

## White Night

Child marriage: The persecuted narrative of the bitter life of children under the age of 18 who, due to cultural, traditional, and family economic problems, are condemned to live with a spouse who does not understand the meaning behind it; a story of the pain of old mothers who sometimes transfers her sufferings to the next generation.

One fifth of girls worldwide end their childhoods abruptly and enter an unknown future. Deprivation from school, loss of opportunities and better life chances, elimination or marginalization of part of the human resources of society and the rotation of these children and their children in the poverty cycle are some of the consequences of child marriage.

These photos depict the life of Leila, resident of Khodabandeh town in Zanjan province, who paid off a very old grudge with her marriage at a very young age.

"Escape from home is a custom!" Leila said this.

"Before the flowers and cookies are brought to the future bride's house and the families get to know each other, the girl and the boy choose each other, the girl escapes home with a plan and hide in the house of her future spouse. One person representing the groom's family goes to the future bride's house to satisfy them and arrange the wedding."

"I didn't, I was elected," says Leila. I was 12 when my father passed away. The wife of a former suitors of my mother fearing that my mother would become her cowife, planned to make me escape on the pretext of marrying her son. At a wedding She took me to their home with the help of her daughter, and after getting my mother's consent, they married me to their son. It didn't take me more than a month until my husband's first violence against me."

Now 24 years have passed from Leila's separation, she and her two sisters, who never got married, live on by weaving wool rugs and selling them. Her kindness to children is known among relatives and acquaintances. Undoubtedly, her sensitivity to children and concerns about their future is the result of her untimely and unsuccessful marriage.