

Forced Marriage

What is forced marriage?

A forced marriage is when you feel that you cannot say 'no' to the marriage. Both men and women of different ages, communities and backgrounds can be victims of a forced marriage. Those effected may face physical pressure to marry (e.g. threats, physical violence or sexual violence) and/or emotional and psychological pressure (e.g. if you're made to feel like you're bringing shame on your family).

A forced marriage is not the same as an arranged marriage. An arranged marriage is when the families are involved in helping to choose the marriage partner, but it is the choice of both the bride and groom whether they want to get married or not. A forced marriage is when the bride or groom have no choice or feel that they have no choice.

Forced marriage is illegal in England and Wales. This includes:

- conducting a marriage without the valid consent of one or both parties and where duress is a factor.
- taking someone overseas to force them to marry (whether or not the forced marriage takes place).
- marrying someone who lacks the mental capacity to consent to the marriage (whether they're pressured to or not).

Places for support and information:

The Forced Marriage Unit (FMU) - <https://www.gov.uk/stop-forced-marriage>

Contact the Forced Marriage Unit (FMU) if you're trying to stop a forced marriage or you need help leaving a marriage you've been forced into.

E: fmu@fco.gov.uk

Telephone: 020 7008 0151

From overseas: +44 (0)20 7008 0151

Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm

Out of hours: 020 7008 1500 (ask for the Global Response Centre)

Next Link

Offers crisis support and safe temporary supported housing to women and children experiencing domestic abuse. www.nextlinkhousing.co.uk / 0117 925 0680

The Halo Project

The Halo Project Charity is a national project that will support victims of honour-based violence, forced marriages and FGM by providing appropriate advice and support to victims. They also work with key partners to provide required interventions and advice necessary for the protection and safety of victims.

www.haloproject.org.uk

Forced marriage abroad

Contact the FMU if you think you're about to be taken abroad to get married against your will.

Contact the nearest [British Embassy](#) if you're already abroad.

HARCSAC