

IN4M: Information in 4 Minutes

May 2018

What is Forced Marriage?

A forced marriage is where one or both people do not (or in cases of people with learning disabilities, cannot) consent to the marriage and pressure or abuse is used.

It is an appalling and indefensible practice and is recognised in the UK as a form of violence against women and men, domestic/child abuse and a serious abuse of human rights.

The pressure put on people to marry against their will can be physical (including threats, actual physical violence and sexual violence) or emotional and psychological (for example, when someone is made to feel like they're bringing shame on their family). Financial abuse (taking your wages or not giving you any money) can also be a factor.

What can you do?

Child marriage can involve both boys and girls, but the impact on girls is much greater.

Child marriage is a violation of human rights that robs girls of their childhood. Child brides are forced to drop out of school, have children before they're ready and are often subjected to a life of violence and abuse.

If you are concerned about yourself or about someone you know, please call in to the Pod where a trained listener will advise you.

You can ask to speak in a private area, your concerns will be taken seriously and you will be treated with respect and dignity.

Legislation on Forced Marriage

The Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 makes it a criminal offence to force someone to marry

This includes:

- *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)*
- *Breaching a Forced Marriage Protection Order is also a criminal offence*

Useful contacts

Modern Slavery Helpline

0800 0121 700

www.modernslaveryhelpline.org

Equality Advisory & Support (EASS)

0808 800 0082

www.equalityadvisoryservice.com

Advises and assists individuals on issues relating to equality and human rights

Forced Marriage Unit:

020 7008 0151

www.fco.gov.uk

Enter Forced Marriages into search bar at top of site

Freedom Charity:

0845 607 0133

www.freedomcharity.org.uk

Freedom charity advises children and young people who are at risk or are subjected to violent crimes, dishonour-based violence and forced marriages.

