



Sharan Project
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www.ourgirl.co.uk

Forced Marriage Unit
020 7008 0151

FORCED MARRIAGE DESTROYS LIVES

Everyone has the Right2Choose

WHAT IS IT?

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. Forced Marriage is a breach of human rights and a criminal offence in the UK

IMPACT

Forced Marriage transcends many cultures, religions, class, gender and sexuality and can result in false imprisonment, kidnapping, threats of violence, blackmail, rape, assault, domestic violence and 'honour' based abuse

FORCED MARRIAGE WARNING SIGNS



EDUCATION

- Truancy
- Failure to return from visits to country of origin
- Surveillance by siblings or cousins
- Poor performance in class/disengaged
- Being removed from education by those with parental responsibility
- Prevented from further education

- Announcement of engagement to a stranger
- Not allowed to attend extra-curricular activities

EMPLOYMENT

- Sudden changes in behaviour/performance
- Limited career choices

- Leaving/Arriving work accompanied
- Unable to attend business trips or functions.
- Subject to financial control e.g. confiscation of wages / income
- Not allowed to work
- Inflexible working



HEALTH

- Accompanied to doctors or clinic
- Self harm/Attempted Suicide
- Eating disorders
- Depression/Isolation
- Substance misuse
- Early/Unwanted pregnancy
- Female genital mutilation
- Sudden removal from a day centre of a person with a physical/learning disability

FAMILY

- History of self-harm/suicide/early marriage of sibling

- Confiscation of mobile/laptop/money
- Running away from home
- Restricted movement
- Fear of going home
- Family disputes
- Death of a parent



POLICE INVOLVEMENT

- Reports of domestic abuse or breaches of the peace at the family home
- Other siblings within the family reported missing
- Victim reported for offences e.g. shoplifting/substances misuse
- Reports of other offences such as rape, assault or kidnappings



Supporting South Asian Women in the UK

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1 in 4 
women will experience **domestic abuse**

2  women are **murdered every week** due to domestic abuse

500,000  estimated incidents of **domestic abuse every year** across UK.

Forced marriage is a **criminal offence**



RIP  **12 women** are murdered **every year** due to 'honour' killings in the UK - this is just the tip of the iceberg

17,000 WOMEN IN BRITAIN  are estimated to have been subjected to 'honour' related abuse.

80% of cases handled by the Forced Marriage Unit in 2016 involved female victims.
60% were from South Asian backgrounds.

45% of all cases involved **young people aged 16 – 25**

5,000 TO 8,000 FORCED MARRIAGE CASES ARE REPORTED IN THE UK

IF YOU SUSPECT SOMEONE IS BEING FORCED INTO MARRIAGE

✓ DO

- **Believe** what they tell you
- **Reassure** confidentiality
- **Speak** to the individual alone in a secure and private place
- **Respect** and recognise the individual's wishes
- **Ensure** the individual is dealt with in a appropriate and sensitive way
- **Arrange** for an independent interpreter who speaks the dialect and language of the individual if necessary.
- **Contact** the FMU or Police for more information or assistance
- **Provide** the individual with contact details of a member of staff, The Sharan Project, the FMU or the Police

✗ DON'T

- **Speak** to the individual's family or community if you have concerns, this may put the individual at significant risk of harm
- **Rely** on family or community members to act as an interpreter for you
- **Share** information with anyone, unless you have the individual's consent
- **Allow** the individual to leave the premises with members of their family or community if you believe they may be in danger
- **Attempt** to mediate between parties or between an individual and their family. Mediation can be extremely dangerous and can put the individual in grave danger.
- **Decide** it is not your responsibility to follow up the concern

ONE CHANCE RULE:

You may have only one chance to support an Individual



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