

What is Forced Marriage?

Forced marriage is where one or both parties do not (or cannot due to vulnerabilities) consent to their marriage. Victims experience physical, psychological, financial, sexual and emotional pressures from family members or their communities to get married leading to issues surrounding honour based and domestic abuse.

Key Facts

- **Forced marriage is illegal in the UK**
- **Forced marriage should not be confused with arranged marriages where both parties and their families consent to the marriage without the pressures associated with a forced marriage**
- **The summer break sees an increase in forced marriage cases as family or community members take their children abroad to go ahead with the marriage**
- **Forced marriage affects men as well as women**
- **A Forced Marriage Protection Order is a legal document that can protect victims from a forced marriage in the UK or from being taken abroad to be married. The order will also help to bring them back to the UK if they are taken out of the country**
- **Forced marriages are not just confined to certain religious groups and cultures. The practice of forced marriage can happen regardless of ethnicity, culture, religion, disability, age, gender and sexuality**

Be vigilant for signs and indicators

Education

- Truancy or extended absence
- Withdrawn from school
- Surveillance from siblings
- Prevented from going to higher education
- Poor exam results
- Announcement of engagement to a stranger
- Decline in behaviour

Health

- Self-harm or attempted suicide
- Eating disorder
- Depression
- Isolation
- Accompanied to doctor's appointments

Police Involvement

- Victim reported missing by family
- Reports of domestic abuse
- Threats to kill
- Victim reported for offences e.g. shoplifting or substance misuse

Family History

- Siblings forced to marry
- Early marriage of a sibling
- Self-harm or suicide of sibling
- Death of a parent
- Family disputes
- Running away from home
- Kept at home by parents
- Financial restrictions

Employment

- Not allowed to work
- Confiscation of wages or income
- Accompanied to and from work
- Poor performance or attendance
- Limited career choices
- Unable to be flexible in their working hours

Challenges and barriers faced

- Concerns around cultural sensitivity
- Lack of understanding and awareness of issues and risks
- Reluctance of victims to come forward
- Confidentiality and resourcefulness of perpetrators
- Complexity of issues

For help and support please contact any of the following:

0800 107 0726 | www.saverauk.co.uk | info@saverauk.co.uk

Operating hours (Mon – Fri, 9am – 5pm)

In an emergency, please call 999

