

FORCED MARRIAGE FACT SHEET

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.

Forced marriage is a violation of human right and a recognised form of violence against women and girls. It is a form of domestic and child abuse.

The pressure can be physical, sexual, emotional, psychological or financial abuse.

Risk Aggravating Factors

- ✓ School informing the family of poor performance or attendance.
- ✓ Being the source of community / family gossip.
- ✓ Having a boyfriend, loss of virginity, pre/extra marital sex, intimacy in public place, pregnancy or Disclosure of rape or sexual abuse.
- ✓ Make up, clothes or behaviour perceived as inappropriate.
- ✓ Sexual orientation or behaviour indicating the young person is not heterosexual.

Forced Marriage Support

IKWRO helpline **0207 920 6460**

Out of hours **07862 733511**

Karma Nirvana **0800 5999 247**

If at immediate risk, call the police on 999

Warning Signs

- Family history of forced marriage
- Running away from home or reported missing to police
- Self harm and/or suicide attempts
- Poor attendance at school or work or worries about upcoming school holidays
- Noticeable decline in performance at school or work
- Not permitted to work or attend higher education/Inflexible working
- Accompanied to appointments or to and from work
- Depression, isolation, eating disorders or Substance misuse
- Surveillance by family members and hyper vigilance by those at risk
- Sudden announcement of engagement to a stranger

What to do if you suspect Forced marriage is about to take place?

Forced marriage is child abuse and should immediately trigger safeguarding processes.

As of 2014, forcing someone to marry became a criminal offence carrying a maximum sentence of 7 years imprisonment.

Forced marriage Protection orders can be obtained promptly to safeguard those at risk of FGM. There is no fee for these and in urgent cases, they can be granted within a short period of time.