

Forced Marriage

A marriage which takes place *without* the permission of the two people involved is a Forced Marriage.

There is a general belief that some religions may condone forced marriage. However ALL major religions, across the world, condemn this practice.

If someone is forcing a person to marry against their will they may be breaking the law in the U.K. and in other countries. Every individual has the right to legal protection.

The following information may be of use to you if you become the subject of a forced marriage, or are aware of somebody in a similar situation.

Try to obtain details of National Insurance numbers, passport numbers and where relevant details of travel dates and flight numbers. If possible leave these details with a trustworthy person.

It is important to know that an individual does not have to travel abroad to be forced into a marriage. These marriages can take place in the U.K. In this case contact your local police for advice.

Help and advice is available at airports in the U.K. If you are able, try to make any airport official aware that either you or someone known to you is being taken out of the country against their will.

If traveling abroad, as above, try to bring the situation to the attention of any airport official, but it is of the utmost importance that this is done as soon as possible and certainly prior to immigration/entry clearance.

N.B. Airport officials are becoming increasingly aware of this very sensitive subject. Any intervention is carried out with the greatest discretion.

Local/National contacts:

Police - 08451 253545

Home Office Forced Marriage Unit - 020 7008 0151

Greater Manchester Police - 0161 872 5050

(This number should ONLY be called either at or en-route to Manchester Airport. It is NOT to be called for general advice or enquiries).

If you live in Burnley, Pendle or Rossendale help is also available from:

- Burnley Women's Aid 01282 422024
- Pendle Women's Domestic Violence Initiative 01282 726000
- Rossendale Domestic Violence Forum 01706 830600
- National Domestic Violence Helpline 0808 200 247

International contacts:

**British High Commission
Chanakyapuri
New Dehli 110021
INDIA
0091 11 687 2161**

**Office of the British Deputy High Commissioner
Maker Chambers IV
222 Jammalal Bajaj Road
PO Box 11714 Nariman Point
Mumbai (Bombay) 400 021
INDIA
0091 22 283 0517 or 0091 22 283 2330**

**British High Commission
United Nations Road
Baridhara
Dhaka**

**PO Box 6079, Dhaka 1212
BANGLADESH
00880 2 88 22705**

**British Deputy High Commission
Shahrah-E-Iran
Clifton
Karachi 75600
PAKISTAN
0092 21 5872431/6**

**British High Commission
Diplomatic Enclave
Ramna 5
PO Box 1122
Islamabad
PAKISTAN
0092 51 2822131/5**

**For details of British High Commission offices in other countries please contact
0207 008 0151.**