

Forced marriage is illegal in Scotland and everyone has the right to legal protection from it.

Forced marriage is when one or both people don't freely agree to the marriage. This could be if:

- They don't want to get married;
- They can't legally say yes (for example because the person doesn't have capacity to consent or if they are under 16 years old);
- They feel pressured to say yes. This might be because of force, threats, or emotional pressure such as being told that they will bring shame on the family.



Forced marriage is often hidden and the signs may be subtle. The following may indicate a person is being forced into marriage.

- o The person may be anxious, depressed or emotionally withdrawn
- o Unreasonable restriction and control of movements like "house arrest" or withdrawal from education, work or social activities.
- o History of siblings leaving education early to marry or reported missing
- o Talking about an upcoming family holiday that they are worried about or fear of being taken abroad
- o Surveillance by family members or always being accompanied
- o Fears that they will be taken out of education and kept abroad
- o A person directly disclosing that they are worried they may be forced to marry
- o Running away from home due to family disputes or pressure to marry
- o Self-harm, treatment for depression, attempted suicide, social isolation, eating disorders or substance misuse
- o Girls and women between 13 and 21 are most likely to be forced into marriage.



If you are at risk, or concerned about someone being at risk of forced marriage, please speak to a professional, one of the agencies below or the Police at 101 in non-emergency situations.

Support is available 24/7 in complete confidence from Scotland's Domestic Abuse & Forced Marriage Helpline. If English is not your first language, they can speak to you through a confidential telephone interpreting service.

Call: 0800 027 1234

SMS or WhatsApp: 07401 288 595

Web chat: www.sdafmh.org.uk

Email: helpline@sdafmh.org.uk

In an emergency, call 999 and ask for the Police.

Other organisations that can help:

UK FORCED MARRIAGE UNIT

Phone: 020 7008 0151

From Overseas: +44 (0)20 7008 0151

Out of hours: 020 7008 5000

Email: fmu@fcdo.gov.uk

AMINA, THE MUSLIM WOMEN'S
RESOURCE CENTRE

Phone: 0808 801 0301

Website: www.mwrc.org.uk

HEMAT GRYFFE WOMEN'S AID

Phone: 0141 353 0859

Email: womensaid@hematgryffe.org.uk

SAHELIYA

Phone: 0131 556 9302

Email: info@saheliya.co.uk

SHAKTI WOMEN'S AID

Phone: 0131 475 2399

Email: info@shaktiedinburgh.co.uk

Website: www.shaktiedinburgh.co.uk



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