

Forced Marriage



SAFETY, TRUST AND RESPECT
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When two people love each other, they might choose to get married. In any marriage, *both* partners should *want to* and *agree* to get married.

No one should be forced to marry someone they don't want to. It's wrong and it's against the law.

There are lots of reasons why some families force their children to marry, including: cultural traditions; concerns about reputation and honour in the family; money; disapprove of their child being lesbian, gay, or bisexual; don't want their children to have relationships or sex; and pressure by the community or other family members. They might even believe it's best for you.

None of these reasons are okay.

Arranged Marriage

Sometimes, parents from two families will arrange for their children to get married once they are old enough. This is OK as long as both partners want to marry each other and agree to the marriage.

YES, I DO!
(want to get married)

Forced Marriage

This is different. It's where one or both of the partners are forced to marry when they don't want to. An arranged marriage can turn into a forced marriage if your parents don't respect **your right to say 'no'.**

A marriage is also 'forced' if one of the partners doesn't have the ability to consent.
(e.g. a child under 16 years, or an adult with learning disability)

I DON'T HAVE A CHOICE

You might love your parents but might also feel angry, nervous, and distressed about being forced to marry. They might have told you that you're bringing shame on your family if you don't marry. They might even have said that they'll disown you, or threatened you with violence.

This is abuse.

Worried that you're going to be forced to marry someone?

Feeling trapped in a marriage you didn't choose?

You can get help!



NSPCC Childline - 0800 11 11 - 1-2-1 Online Chat [here](#).

BAWSO - 0800 731 8147 - Information, Advice and Support for BME people in Wales.

Live Fear Free - 0808 80 10 800 (phone) - 0786 00 77 333 (text) - [live chat](#)

Forced Marriage Unit - 020 7008 0151 - fmu@fco.gov.uk - link to website [here](#).

Karma Nirvana - 0800 5999 247 - link to website [here](#).

If you think your life's in danger, call 999. If you think you're going to be taken out of the country to be forced to marry, contact the Forced Marriage Unit or Childline.

In the UK, if you're under 16 and are being pressured to marry, this is child marriage and it's illegal.



Live Fear Free Helpline
Llinell Gymorth
Byw Heb Ofn
0808 80 10 800



Cymorth i Ferched Cymru
Welsh Women's Aid