

# Forced Marriage

A dark blue, solid-colored shape that starts as a thin line at the bottom left and expands diagonally upwards to the right, filling the bottom right portion of the page.

# What is Forced Marriage?

Forced Marriage: When one or more people **do not consent** to the marriage.

*This includes adults that 'lack capacity' under the Mental Capacity act 2005- they are classed as not being able to consent.*

This includes those under duress.

Arranged Marriage: When both people **consent** to the marriage. They both have the option to opt out.

# Why do they happen?

- To control behaviour and sexuality
- To prevent other relationships
- Family honour and commitments made (sometimes before birth)
- Family pressure/ cultural ideals/ strengthen links
- Wealth and land
- Reduce stigma of a disability
- Passports

More often than not, families believe that it is right!

\*\*Leaving the EU could cause a rise as families want passports

# Crimes

Crimes associated with forced marriages:

- Domestic Violence
- Restrictions of freedom (slavery)
- Abductions
- Rape
- Murder

Anyone can be a victim!

# Barriers to seeking support

- Feel threatened
- Dishonour the family
- Losing children or family members
- Guilt and shame
- Controlled by partner or their family
- Lack of confidentiality
- Lack of trust
- Language barriers
- Fear of being found
- Immigration

# ONE CHANCE RULE

Report immediately- there may only be one chance for the person to reach out.

True Honour charity  
07480621711

Forced Marriage Unit  
02070080151

Global response unit

Sarbjit and Surjit Athwal (1998 death in Hayes) - First convicted Honour Killing

# Early signs in school – Sarbjit Athwal

- No clubs or activities after school to discourage mixing
- Not associating with peers (especially those of opposite sex)
- Withdrawn and not allowed to partake in group activities
- Lots of responsibilities in the home (housework, caring for siblings or relatives)
- Sent away on long vacations (most likely back to ‘home’ country)  
(make sure you have in writing: where, when, return date, reason)
- Poor attendance due to caring for relatives
  
- **Grandparent ‘in charge’ of child’s lives**