

Forced & Child Marriage



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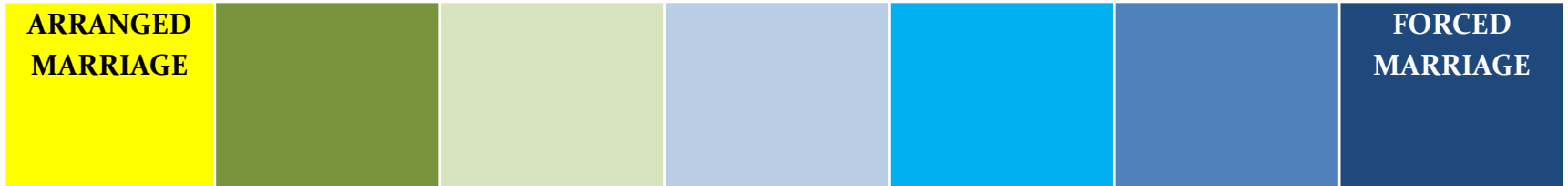


What is a Forced Marriage?

- Forced marriage is the “union of two persons at least one of whom has not given their full and free consent to the marriage.”
 - UN Convention on Consent to Marriage, Minimum Age for Marriage and Registration of Marriage, Article 1(1), 1964



Arranged Marriage vs. Forced Marriage



An arranged marriage is a legitimate way of finding a suitable marriage partner. In an arranged marriage, the parents or extended family members take the lead in finding a potential marriage partner for their adult child. These marriages often result in stable, satisfying, long-term relationships. An arranged marriage should have the full and free consent of both parties to the marriage. They must be the ones to ultimately decide WHO, WHEN and IF to marry.



TYPES OF FORCED MARRIAGE



Forced Marriage by Parents, Families and Communities



Forced Marriage by Religious Leaders



Forced Marriage in Conflict Zones



Trafficking for the Purpose of Forced Marriage



Kidnapping for the Purpose of Forced Marriage



AP File Photo



Adoption for the Purpose of Forced Marriage



Forced Marriage by Partner



Forced Marriage Through Hereditary Slavery



Forced Marriage by Judge



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Forced Marriage and Murder for Insurance Fraud



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Intersection of Forced Marriage & Sexual Exploitation and Forced Labour

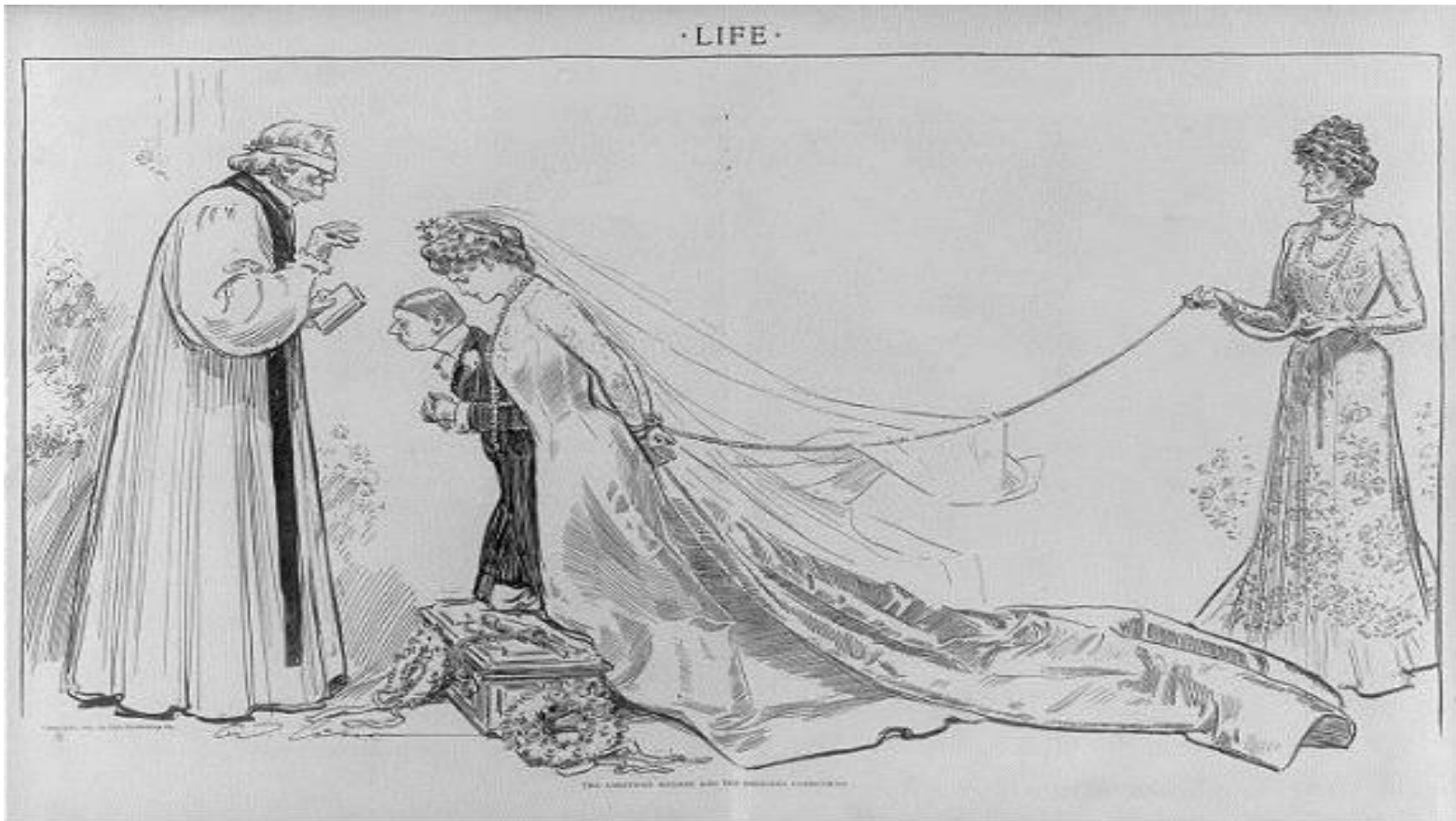


Positioning Forced Marriage



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Forced Marriage is a product of Patriarchal Culture



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Christina of Markyate

England 12th century A.D.



Forced marriage is an Abuse of Human Rights

“If you’re being pressured into marriage through kidnapping, harassment, emotional blackmail, or any other threat, understand that forced marriage constitutes a human-rights violation under international law.”

- Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade Canada 2012



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FORCED MARRIAGE IS A FORM
OF FAMILY VIOLENCE

And can include:

Emotional, Mental, Physical, Sexual, Spiritual,
and Financial Abuse



FORCED MARRIAGE IS A FORM
OF VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN



**It's Important to Understand Forced Marriage
as a Form of Violence Against Women in Order
to Understand that:**



Forced Marriage is Not a Cultural or Religious Practice

Forced marriage occurs in all patriarchal societies at some point, and manifests itself in all patriarchal institutions, whether they are religious, legal, cultural or governmental. Understanding forced marriage as a form of violence against women allows us to understand that it is not a core tradition of any particular culture or religion but rather a symptom of patriarchal control.



Forced Marriage is Directly Related to Women's Inferior Position Within Society

Forced marriage is overwhelmingly a form of power and control used against women and girls. Like partner abuse, rape and other forms of sexual assault, it is used to control women, their sexuality, and often, their offspring. If forced marriage is not positioned as a form of violence against women, women's treatment and status throughout society will not be examined, leaving the roots of this form of violence - women's inequality - untouched.



Male Victims of Forced Marriage are Treated “As If” They Were Women

In patriarchal societies, the worst insult that can be given to a man is to equate him with, or call him, a woman. Men who are forced to marry often feel less “manly”, less in control, because they feel that they are being treated like women. In her study of young men from immigrant communities in Norway, Anja Bredal found that “Forced marriage is an especially problematic term when trying to get young men to talk. It has been a topic related to young women, and it is important for these men not to be associated with women’s problems.”⁴

Positioning forced marriage as a form of violence against women allows us to critique the position of both women and men within society, and the damage done to both genders by gender stereotypes and the devaluation of women. Where forced marriage is not understood as a form of violence against women, some men have reacted by taking out the anger they feel at their loss of control onto the women they have been forced to marry. When this happens, these men are in fact perpetuating the very system that abused them.

When men come to an understanding of the negative consequences of patriarchal control for **both** genders they will be able to work **with** women to overcome these attitudes and practices. Men who have faced forced marriage will come to understand that the inferior status of women in patriarchal societies needs to be eliminated in order to ensure the freedom of all members of society.

⁴ Bredal, A. (2011). Mellom makt og avmakt (“Between Power and Powerlessness”) (No. 4) (p. 136). Oslo: Institute for Social Research. Retrieved from http://www.socialresearch.no/content/download/31823/630521/file/R_2011_4web.pdf



Authorities punished Kurdish men by making them parade in public wearing women's clothes. The ultimate insult – being treated like a woman. In response to this, Kurdish men held a demonstration in which they dressed themselves in women's clothes, stating that men should not be ashamed to dress as women since there should be no shame in being a woman. They campaigned for women's rights and gender equality.



To End Forced Marriage we need to be pro-active about:

- Racism
- Immigration phobia
- “Honour Crimes”



Myths & Facts About Forced Marriage



Forced Marriage Only Happens to Young Women

Myth or Fact?



Forced Marriage is Illegal

Myth or Fact?



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Forced marriage is a private family matter.

Myth or Fact?



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SAFETY

& EXPOSURE TO RISK



Shafilea Ahmed

Service providers must be aware that the individual seeking help may be at risk of facing violence and harm if their family learns that they have sought assistance.



If you are dealing with a case of forced marriage, **make sure that anyone in your agency who may come in contact with the individual at risk, or their family members, is adequately trained to handle such interactions.** This would include:

- ☞ Anyone who answers the phone
- ☞ Anyone who responds to emails
- ☞ Anyone who may be in reception at the time that the individual at risk or their family members enter the agency
- ☞ Security
- ☞ Managers & Supervisors
- ☞ Anyone who will be providing services to the individual at-risk (swim instructor, etc.)



Service providers themselves may receive threatening calls if a family member becomes aware that they are helping the victim.





Safety and confidentiality are of the utmost importance.



Confidentiality

- ➡ Outline the nature of confidentiality:
 - Who has access to their information
 - How the information is kept secure
 - Who will not have access to their information
- ➡ Repeat assurances of confidentiality each time you interact with the client (in-person, phone, email)
- ➡ Report any breach of confidentiality to the client



Creating a Space That Encourages Disclosure

- ✦ Have resources about Forced Marriage on display
- ✦ Have posters about Forced Marriage on display
- ✦ Make forced marriage part of all dialogue on parent/child relations, VAW, etc.
- ✦ Sponsor and/or promote events & classes which include forced marriage

Warning Signs of Potential Forced Marriage

- Person may seem depressed or anxious
- Person appears frightened or jumpy
- Person may seem withdrawn
- Self-harming
- Missing school, or drop in school performance
- Missing appointments
- Suspicious injuries
- Person always has a chaperone when attending appointments (family members, spouse)
- Spouse or parents seems aggressive/dominant, and person seems passive/afraid
- Person may have developed an eating disorder
- Attempted suicide
- An upcoming vacation the person does not want to go on or which makes them anxious
- A sibling or cousin has been forced to marry or is not allowed to leave an abusive marriage



The One Chance Rule

Remember that **you may only have one chance** to meet, talk and consult with the person, so:

- make efficient use of the time
- get as many details as possible
- provide as much information and support as you can.

GET

GIVE

Personal Information	Emergency resources
Flight Details	Legal Resources
Photograph	Personal Cell Phone #
Secure Method of Contact	Referrals to Helpful Agencies
Safety Code Word	Assurance of Help
Photocopies of documents	Phone numbers & Email Addresses in Secure Format



Secure Format

History teacher - Mrs. Grey

email: xxxxxxxxxxxxxx@gmail.com

phone: 647-457-6914

- ➡ Rolled in piece of paper put inside lipstick, pen, etc.
- ➡ Taped to back of watch, pendant, etc.
- ➡ Put in multiple places in case one is confiscated





DO NOT Attempt to be a mediator

DO NOT!

- **DO NOT Send the individual away** without assistance, in the belief that it is not your responsibility, or that you cannot help them
- **DO NOT Approach the family or friends**, unless the individual asks you to do so
- **DO NOT Send the individual back to their family** without their permission
- **DO NOT Breach confidentiality**
- **DO NOT Attempt to be a mediator**
- **DO NOT Contact community leaders or members** unless requested to do so by the client
- **DO NOT Disclose immigration status** to police or immigration authorities
- **DO NOT Provide legal advice** unless you are qualified to do so

Forced Marriage Abroad

EVERY YEAR THOUSANDS OF
CANADIANS ARE FORCED INTO
MARRIAGE AT HOME AND ABROAD



Forced Marriage Abroad

If possible, they should find a way to keep from going abroad. Assist them with alternatives. If this does not work as an option, assist your client in registering with the Global Affairs Canada **before leaving**. The form can be found on their website: <https://travel.gc.ca/travelling/registration> or by calling **1-800-387-3124** (inside Canada or U.S.) or **+1 613-996-8885** collect (outside Canada).



Provide Global Affairs with the following personal information:

- Full name
- Date of birth
- Passport details (number, city and date of issue)
- A recent photograph

- Overseas contact information
 - Names of people you will be staying with and your relationship to them
 - Address of place where you will be staying

- Local contact information
 - Contact details of someone you trust in Canada.
 - Names and occupations of your parents
 - Anticipated departure and return dates/ Flight details (carrier, flight #)
 - Names and contact information of people you are travelling with

The client should also take these things with them:

- **Currency** – Canadian currency as well as the local currency of the country you will be visiting (try to keep hidden)
- **Cell phone** (try to keep hidden - can be used to text to Canada)
- **Photocopies** of your passport, tickets, and other major identification (try to keep hidden)
- **Important phone numbers** of resources and contacts in Canada (try to keep hidden) as well as resources and contacts in the destination country

To Leave in Canada

- In addition, if possible, **leave a copy** of the information you have given Global Affairs along with photocopies of your passport and tickets, and a recent photograph of yourself, **with a trusted friend or adult. If the client wishes, have them leave a copy with you.**
- Please note that this advice applies only if the individual is a Canadian citizen. **If the individual at risk is a permanent or temporary resident** it is more complex. If this is the case, please refer them to a legal service which deals with these types of residents.

For Client

Take (& Memorize) this number:

Global Affairs Canada

+1 613-996-8885 (call collect outside of Canada)

When you call:

- ❖ Tell them your situation, including the threat of forced marriage
- ❖ Give them contacts in Canada who are aware of your situation.
- ❖ Tell them if you have a short timeframe in which to communicate



Improving Your Skills at Intervening in Cases Involving Forced Marriage

- Share what you have learned with others. Teaching others reinforces what you have learned
- LIKE and FOLLOW **Forced Marriage – The “I Do” Project** on Facebook
- Practice your intervention skills on real-life cases found on our Facebook page



Thank You!



JOIN THE WORLDWIDE MOVEMENT
TO END FORCED MARRIAGE

