

## **SECTION 10: SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN IN SPECIFIC CIRCUMSTANCES**

### ***SECTION 10.8 PROTOCOL FOR YOUNG PEOPLE FACING FORCED MARRIAGE***

#### **MISSION STATEMENT**

Stockport Local Safeguarding Children Board understands forced marriage to be a form of abuse, and a breach of human rights. It is, therefore, important to safeguard any children or young people subjected to a forced marriage.

This Policy intends to provide an overview of forced marriage and the response required.

#### **BACKGROUND**

*A forced marriage "is a marriage conducted without the valid consent of both parties, where duress is a factor"*

"A Choice by Right" HM Government, 2000

There is a clear distinction between a forced marriage and an arranged marriage. In *arranged marriages*, the families of both spouses take a leading role in arranging the marriage but the choice whether or not to accept the arrangement remains with the prospective spouses. In *forced marriage*, one or both spouses do not (or, in the case of some vulnerable adults, cannot) consent to the marriage and duress is involved. Duress can include physical, psychological, financial, sexual, financial and emotional pressure.

This protocol has closely followed the national [Multi-Agency Practice Guidelines: Handling Cases of Forced Marriage](#) issued by The Forced Marriage Unit in June 2009. This guidance is very comprehensive and practitioners are advised to read this document especially the chapters that relate to their work area.

The contents of this protocol are:

1. Definitions
2. Incidences of forced marriage
3. Motives Prompting forced Marriage
- 4 .The victim
5. Possible consequences of forced marriage
6. Aggravating factors
- 7 .Potential warning signs and indicators
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## 1. DEFINITIONS

a) This protocol is not about arranged marriages

'The tradition of arranged marriage has operated successfully within many communities and many countries for along time and remains the preferred choice of may young people'. (Working Group: Forced Marriages – *A Choice by Right*, June 2000)

b) Definition of an arranged marriage:

Families of both spouses take a leading role in arranging the marriage, but the choice whether to accept the arrangement remains with the individuals.

c) Definition of a forced marriage:

A marriage which is conducted without the consent of both parties, where duress is a factor.

d) When does any arranged marriage become a forced marriage?

'A person knows when they are being forced into marriage against their will – that must be the starting point' (*Young Woman: Leicester*)

'An arranged marriage is a forced marriage when you have no choice' (*Young Woman: Wardleworth*)

Hannah Siddiqui, co-ordinator of the Southall Black Sisters, a campaigning group, states: 'There is a whole spectrum of pressure placed on young girls ranging from subtle, emotional pressure to harassment, threats of violence, abduction, rape and even murder. Imagine you respect your heritage and your parents. They are very nice to you and care about you, but you still feel you cannot speak up against being married off. Even in that context, an arranged marriage then becomes a forced marriage'.

Although there is no specific criminal offence of 'forcing someone to marry', within England and Wales there are crimes that may be committed when forcing someone into marriage. These are described in Section 9 of this protocol.

Forced marriage is a violation of internationally recognised human rights standards. Marriage shall be entered into only with the free and full consent of the intending spouses.' (Universal Declaration of Human Rights, Article 16(2)).

'State parties shall ensure on a basis of equality of men and women ... the same right freely to choose a spouse to enter into marriage only with their full and free consent'. (Convention to Eliminate all forms of Discrimination against Women, Article 16(1) (b))

'A Woman's right to choose a spouse and enter freely into marriage is central to her life and her dignity, and equality as a human being'. (General recommendation No.21, UN Committee on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women)

Forced marriage cannot be justified on religious grounds. Freely given consent of both parties is a prerequisite of Christian, Hindu, Muslim and Sikh marriages. Forced marriage is not a religious issue and to describe it as such feeds prejudice and intolerance.

## **2. INCIDENCE OF FORCED MARRIAGE**

The government regards forced marriage as an abuse of human rights and a form of domestic abuse and, where it affects children and young people, child abuse. It can happen to both men and women although most cases involve young women and girls aged between 13 and 30. There is no “typical” victim of forced marriage. Some may be under 18 years old, some may be over 18 years old, some may have a disability, some may have young children and some may be spouses from overseas.

The majority of cases of forced marriage reported to date in the UK involve South Asian families. This is partly a reflection of the fact that there is a large, established South Asian population in the UK. However, it is clear that forced marriage is not solely a South Asian problem and there have been cases involving families from East Asia, the Middle East, Europe and Africa. Some forced marriages take place in the UK with no overseas element, while others involve a partner from overseas or a British national being sent abroad.

## **3. MOTIVES PROMPTING FORCED MARRIAGE**

Parents who force their children to marry often justify their behaviour as protecting their children, building stronger families and preserving cultural or religious traditions. They often do not see anything wrong in their actions. Forced marriage cannot be justified on religious grounds; every major faith condemns it and freely given consent is a prerequisite of all religions.

Often parents believe that they are upholding the cultural traditions of their home country, when in fact practices and values there may have changed. Some parents come under significant pressure from their extended families to get their children married. In some instances, an agreement may have been made about marriage when a child is in their infancy. Many young people live their entire childhoods with the expectation that they will marry someone their parents select – some may be unaware that they have a fundamental human right to choose their spouse.

Some of the key motives that have been identified are:

- Controlling unwanted sexuality (including perceived promiscuity, or being lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender) - particularly the behaviour and sexuality of women
- Controlling unwanted behaviour, for example, alcohol and drug use, wearing make-up or behaving in a “westernised manner”
- Preventing “unsuitable” relationships, e.g. outside the ethnic, cultural, religious or caste group
- Protecting “family honour”
- Responding to peer group or family pressure
- Attempting to strengthen family links
- Achieving financial gain
- Ensuring land, property and wealth remain within the family

- Protecting perceived cultural ideals
- Protecting perceived religious ideals which are misguided
- Ensuring care for a child or vulnerable adult with special needs when parents or existing carers are unable to fulfil that role
- Assisting claims for UK residence and citizenship
- Long-standing family commitments.

While it is important to have an understanding of the motives that drive parents to force their children to marry, these motives should not be accepted as justification for denying them the right to choose a marriage partner and enter freely into marriage. Forced marriage is a breach of children's rights under the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) as well as an abuse of human rights.

#### **4. THE VICTIM**

Isolation is one of the biggest problems facing those trapped in, or under threat of, a forced marriage. They may feel they have no one to speak to about their situation – some may not be able to speak English. These feelings of isolation are very similar to those experienced by victims of other forms of domestic abuse and child abuse. Only rarely will someone disclose fear of forced marriage. Therefore, they will often come to the attention of health professionals, police, social care services or education services for various behaviours consistent with distress.

Young people forced to marry, or those who fear they may be forced to marry, are frequently withdrawn from education, restricting their educational and personal development. They may feel unable to go against the wishes of their parents and be threatened with being disowned if they do – consequently they may suffer emotionally, leading to depression and self-harm. These factors can contribute to impaired social development, limited career and educational opportunities, financial dependence and lifestyle restrictions. Studies have shown that self-harm and suicide are significantly higher among Asian women than other groups; contributory factors include lack of self-determination, excessive control, the weight of expectations around the role of women and concerns about their marriages.

A mental or physical disability or illness adds to a young person's, or adult's, vulnerability and may make it more difficult for them to report abuse or to extricate themselves from an abusive situation. In addition, their care needs may make them dependent on their carers provided by/ through the marriage.

#### **5. POSSIBLE CONSEQUENCES OF FORCED MARRIAGES**

Women forced to marry may find it very difficult to initiate any action to end the marriage and may be subjected to repeated rape (sometimes until they become pregnant) and ongoing domestic abuse within the marriage. In some cases, they suffer violence and abuse from the extended family often being forced to undertake all the household chores for the family. Victims frequently end up trapped in a relationship marked by physical and sexual abuse. The impact this has on children within the marriage is immense. Children

may learn that it is acceptable to be abusive and that violence is an effective way to get what you want; they may learn that violence is justified, particularly when you are angry with someone. Children witnessing abuse can be traumatised because witnessing persistent violence undermines children's emotional security and capacity to meet the demands of everyday life. Witnessing violence as a child is associated with depression, trauma-related symptoms and low self-esteem in adulthood. This in turn can affect their academic ability and achievement.

Both male and female victims of forced marriage may feel that running away is their only option. For many young people, especially women from ethnic minority communities, leaving their family can be especially hard. They may have no experience of life outside the family – leaving may mean they lose their children and friends. For many, finding accommodation for themselves and their children can be very difficult – especially for those who do not have 'leave to remain' and therefore do not have recourse to public funds. Living away from home with little support can make a victim more isolated, thus making it more likely that they will return to the abusive situation. In addition, leaving their family (or accusing them of a crime or simply approaching statutory agencies for help) may be seen as bringing shame on their honour and on the honour of their family in the eyes of the community. This may lead to social ostracism and harassment from the family and community. For many, this is a price they are not prepared to pay.

Those who do leave often live in fear of their own families who will go to considerable lengths to find them and ensure their return. Families may solicit the help of others to find family members who have runaway, or involve the police by reporting them missing or falsely accusing the young person of a crime (for example theft). Some families have traced individuals through medical and dental records, bounty hunters, private investigators, local taxi drivers, members of the community and shopkeepers or through National Insurance numbers, benefit records, school and college records. Sometimes having traced them, the family may murder them (so called "honour killing").

Women trapped in a forced marriage often experience violence, rape, forced pregnancy and forced childbearing. Many girls and young women are withdrawn from education early. Some are taken and left abroad for extended periods, which isolates them from help and support – this limits their choices so that often they go through with the marriage as the only option. Their interrupted education limits their career choices. Even if they manage to find work, however basic, they may be prevented from taking the job or their earnings may be taken from them. This leads to economic dependence, which makes the possibility of leaving the situation even more difficult. Some may be unable to leave the house unescorted – living virtually under "house arrest".

## **6. AGGRAVATING FACTORS**

There is evidence to suggest that there may be factors that increase the likelihood of someone being at risk of forced marriage.

These factors include bereavement within the family. Occasionally, when a parent dies, especially the father, the remaining parent may feel there is more of an urgency to ensure that the children are married. A similar situation may arise within single parent households or when a stepparent moves in with the family.

Women and girls may have an increased risk of forced marriage if they have disclosed sexual abuse. Parents may feel that this has brought shame on her and that ensuring that she is married may restore honour to the family. They may also feel that marriage will put a stop to the abuse.

A person may be at greater risk if they are lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender, as their parents may feel that by forcing them to marry their sexuality or gender identity will not be questioned. Parents may also do so out of a mistaken belief that this will “cure” their son or daughter of what they perceive to be abnormal sexual practices.

## **7. POTENTIAL WARNING SIGNS OR INDICATORS**

People facing forced marriage may appear anxious, depressed and emotionally withdrawn with low self-esteem. They may come to the attention of practitioners for a variety of reasons, some of which are described in the following diagram. Practitioners should be alert to potential warning signs and consider that forced marriage could be the reason. However, they should be careful not to assume that forced marriage is an issue simply on the basis that an individual presents with any of these problems. Of course, some of these warning signs could be indicative of other forms of abuse or neglect that may require a multi-agency response.

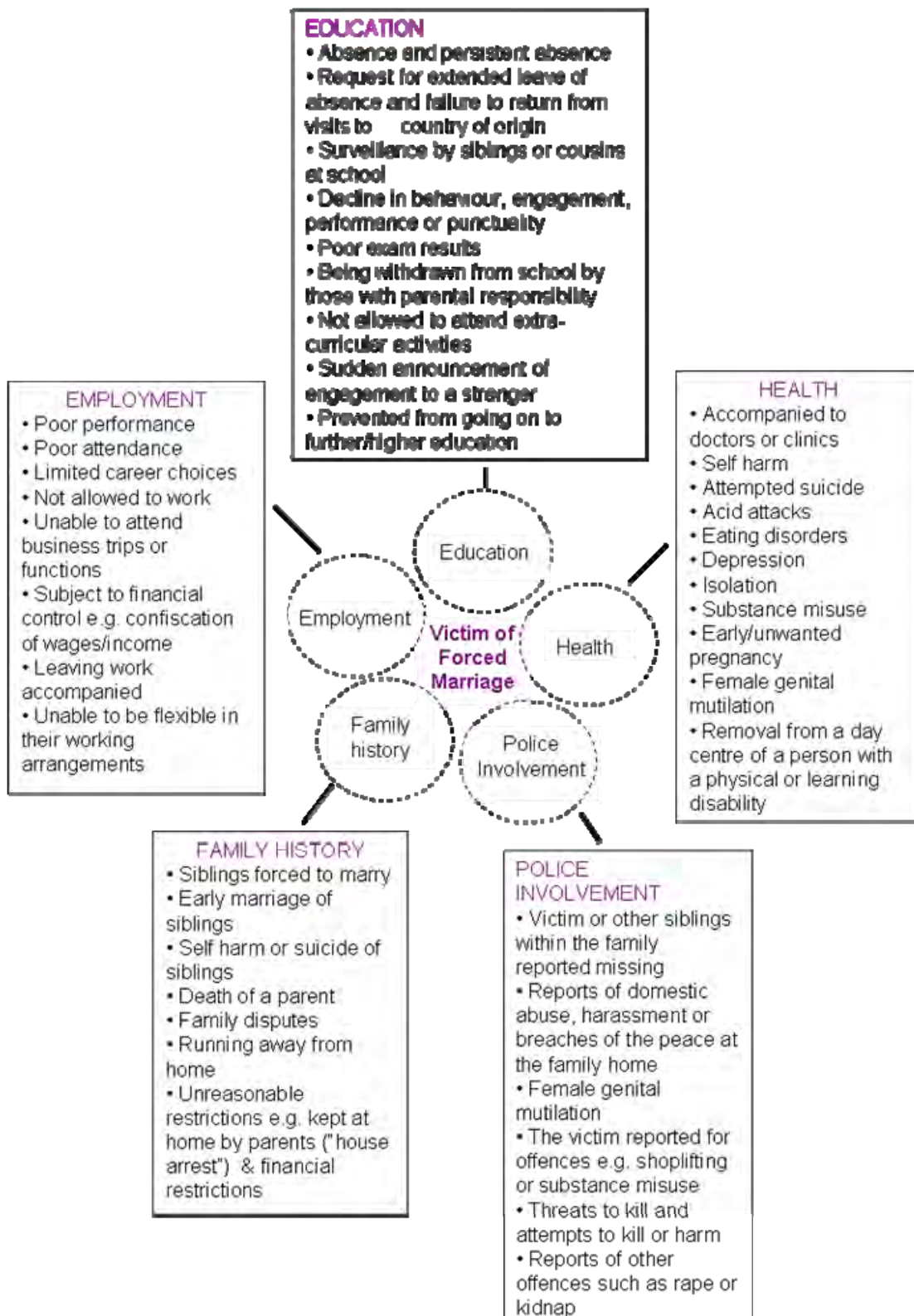
There may be occasions when women present with less common warning signs e.g. cutting or shaving of a woman’s hair as a form of punishment for disobeying or perhaps “dishonouring” her family. In some cases, a girl may report that she has been taken to the doctors to be examined to see if she is a virgin. There have been reports of women presenting with symptoms associated with poisoning. In certain communities, it is important that women undergo female genital mutilation (FGM) before being able to marry – usually this will be performed during childhood but there have been reports of young girls or young women undergoing FGM just before a forced marriage. FGM is illegal in the UK and it is also a criminal offence to take someone overseas for the purposes of FGM. (See Section 10.10:[Female Genital Mutilation](#) )

## **8 ‘ONE CHANCE’ RULE**

The FCO [Guidance](#) refers to the ‘One Chance rule’ which indicates that practitioners working with victims of forced marriage and honour-based violence need to be aware of the “one chance” rule. That is, they may only have one chance to speak to a potential victim and thus they may only have one chance to save a life. This means that all practitioners working within statutory agencies need to be aware of their responsibilities and obligations when they come across forced marriage cases.

## 9. CHART OF POTENTIAL WARNING SIGNS OR INDICATORS

These indicators are not intended to be exhaustive.



## 10 THE LEGAL POSITION

Although there is no specific criminal offence of “forcing someone to marry” within England and Wales, criminal offences may nevertheless be committed. Perpetrators – usually parents or family members – could be prosecuted for offences including threatening behaviour, assault, kidnap, abduction, theft (of passport), threats to kill, imprisonment and murder. Sexual intercourse without consent is rape, regardless of whether this occurs within a marriage or not. A woman who is forced into marriage is likely to be raped and may be raped until she becomes pregnant.

There are a number of civil and family orders that can be made to protect those threatened with, or already in, a forced marriage. For children, an application for a care or supervision order can be made under the Children Act 1989 or Wardship proceedings may be issued in the High Court. Adults can seek an order for protection from harassment or non-molestation.

Section 12c of the Matrimonial Causes Act 1973 states that a marriage shall be voidable if ‘either party to the marriage did not validly consent to it, whether in consequence of duress, mistake, unsoundness of mind or otherwise’. In April 2002 a judge annulled a marriage following evidence that the woman had been deceived and frightened into marrying.

A Forced Marriage Protection Order can be sought under the Forced Marriage (Civil Protection) Act 2007. This Act makes provision for protecting both adults and children at risk of being forced into marriage and offers protection for those who have already been forced into marriage. It is designed to enable the courts to tailor the terms of an order to protect and meet the specific needs of victims .

Some forced marriages will be legally valid until they are annulled or a divorce is granted by the court. Others will not be legally valid but may also need to be annulled. There are strict legal requirements that govern whether a marriage is valid under UK law and the rules for recognising a marriage vary depending in which country the marriage took place. When considering the validity of a marriage, particularly a marriage that took place overseas or in unlicensed UK premises, specialist legal advice should be sought. However, agencies should not assume that a marriage is invalid because it was forced, this will most often not be the case.

## 11. WHAT TO DO IN STOCKPORT IF YOU COME ACROSS AN INCIDENT OF FORCED MARRIAGE

Stockport has endorsed the directions in the [Multi-Agency Practice Guidelines: Handling Cases of Forced Marriage](#).

It should be remembered that where there are allegations of abuse or neglect, child care services have a duty to make enquiries under Section 47 of the Children Act 1989, and that forced marriage can amount to sexual and emotional abuse.

The procedures allow for the exclusion of parents and/or carers from involvement in the initial investigation, and meetings, in circumstances, where to do so would have serious consequences for the child or young person. All professionals involved must be made aware of the importance of confidentiality.

All concerns about forced marriage should be reported to Duty IRO at the Safeguarding Children Unit at Sanderling (0161 474 5657) for further guidance. It is also advisable to seek specialist guidance and support from the Forced Marriage Unit at the Home Office. (see Appendix 2 of this protocol for contact details)

Wherever Police or Children's Services become aware of a child or young person party to a forced marriage, they must consider whether this requires joint enquiries/ investigation or single agency child protection enquiries. This decision ought to be made as part of a strategy meeting convened by the Safeguarding Children Unit and the referring agency made aware of the intended actions.

However, given that on occasion agencies will have to act speedily, Stockport Local Safeguarding Children Board supports the view that single agency action to safeguard the child can be taken outside of a strategy meeting subject to the accepted line of accountability within that agency. However, the Safeguarding Children Unit must be informed as soon as possible.

## **12. MULTI-AGENCY GUIDELINES – ACTIONS TO BE TAKEN IN ALL CASES**

### **a. Information required in all cases**

Ideally the information should be gathered by a police or social care trained specialist, however there may be occasions when an individual is going overseas imminently and as it is an emergency an education or health professional may need to gather as much information as possible from the victim. In these cases, the information should be passed on to police, social care services and the Forced Marriage Unit. All information should be stored in accordance with Safeguarding Children and Adult policies and procedures.

It is important to get **as much information as possible** when a case is first reported, as there may not be another opportunity for the person to make contact (see the "one chance rule"). The case may be reported by a third party or the person under threat. In all cases the person receiving the information should:

- Obtain details of the person making the report, their contact details, and their relationship with the individual under threat
- Obtain details of the person under threat including:
  - Name of person under threat
  - Nationality
  - Age
  - Date and place of birth
  - Passport details
  - School details
  - Employment details
  - Full details of the allegation
  - Name and address of parents or those with parental responsibility
  - National Insurance number
  - Driving licence number
- Obtain a list from the person under threat of all those friends and family who can be trusted and their contact details

- Establish a code word to ensure you are speaking to the right person
- Establish a way of contacting them discreetly in the future that will not put them at risk of harm
- Obtain any background information including schools attended, involvement by adult or children's social care, doctors or other health services etc.
- Record details about any threats, abuse or other hostile action against the person, whether reported by the victim or a third party
- Obtain a recent photograph and any other identifying documents. Document any other distinguishing features such as birthmarks and tattoos etc.
- Establish the nature and level of risk to the safety of the person (e.g. is she pregnant? Do they have a secret boyfriend or girlfriend? Are they already secretly married?)
- Establish if there are any other family members at risk of forced marriage or if there is a family history of forced marriage and abuse
- Note the date and time of the report.

**b. Guidelines for meeting with the victim**

- Explain all the options to the person
- Recognise and respect their wishes
- See them immediately in a secure and private place where the conversation cannot be overheard
- See them on their own – even if they attend with others
- Contact, as soon as possible, a trained specialist who has responsibility for forced marriage
- If the young person is under 18 years of age, refer them to the designated person with responsibility for safeguarding children and activate local safeguarding procedures
- Reassure the person about confidentiality
- Establish a way of contacting them discreetly in the future
- Obtain full details to pass on to the trained specialist
- Consider the need for immediate protection and placement away from the family

**DO NOT:**

- Send the person away
- Approach members of her family or the community unless the person expressly asks you to do so
- Share information with anyone without the express consent of the person
- Breach confidentiality
- Attempt to be a mediator

### **c. Additional Steps**

- Give them, where possible, the choice of the race and gender of the specialist who deals with their case
- Complete a risk assessment
- Inform the person of their right to seek legal advice and representation
- If necessary, record any injuries and arrange a medical examination
- Give the person personal safety advice
- Develop a safety plan in case they are seen i.e. prepare another reason why you are meeting
- Establish if there is a family history of forced marriage, i.e. siblings forced to marry. Other indicators may include domestic violence, self-harm, family disputes, unreasonable restrictions (e.g. withdrawal from education or “house arrest”) or missing persons within the family
- Advise them not to travel overseas and discuss the difficulties they may face
- Identify any potential criminal offences and refer to the police if appropriate
- Give them advice on what service they should expect and from whom
- Ensure that the person has the contact details for the trained specialist
- Maintain a full record of the decisions made and the reason for those decisions
- Information from case files and database files should be kept strictly confidential and preferably be restricted to named members of staff only
- Refer them, with their consent, to appropriate local and national support groups, counselling services and women’s groups that have a history of working with survivors of domestic abuse and forced marriage
- Encourage the person to access an appropriate, trustworthy advocacy service that can act on their behalf

### **d. Things to Consider-**

When referring a case of forced marriage to other organisations, ensure they are capable of handling the case appropriately. If in doubt, approach established women’s groups who have a history of working with survivors of domestic abuse and forced marriage and ask these groups to refer the person to reputable agencies.

Circumstances may be more complex if the person is lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender.

British Embassies and High Commissions can only help British nationals or, in certain circumstances EU or Commonwealth nationals. This means that if a non-British national leaves the UK to be forced into marriage overseas, the British Embassy or High Commission will not be able to assist them.

### **e. What to do If an individual is going overseas**

If an individual is going overseas imminently practitioners **MUST** contact the Forced Marriage Unit for further guidelines. Have as much information to share as possible. The

FMU provides step-by-step advice on what actions to take. The victim should be encouraged to get in touch with the Forced Marriage Unit themselves as it provides confidential advice and support to anyone who fears they may be forced to marry.

#### **f. Records**

Accurate record keeping in cases of forced marriage is important. The records may be used in court proceedings and/ or to assist someone in their immigration case. Records should provide a detailed account of what was discussed with the person. Even if forced marriage is not disclosed, a record of your suspicion may be useful in the future.

All records (paper and electronic) relating to individuals facing forced marriage must be kept secure to prevent unauthorised access by those within the broader community who may potentially pass on confidential information to a victim's family. All records should only be available to those directly dealing with the case. Some people who have fled a forced marriage have been traced through their medical or benefit records. When someone moves to a different area, it is important to have systems in place to prevent their medical records being traced to another GP practice or Benefit Office.

#### **Records Should**

- Be accurate, detailed, clear and include the date
- Use the person's own words in quotation marks
- Document any injuries – include photographs, body maps or pictures of their injuries
- Only be available to those directly involved in the person's case

Working with cases of forced marriage and other forms of child abuse is stressful and demanding and the worker should seek appropriate advice and support from their line manager/ designated safeguarding professional at all stages of the process.

## **APPENDIX 1: Information for professionals**

The [Multi-Agency Practice Guidelines: handling cases of Forced Marriage](#) is very comprehensive. Practitioners should read the opening chapters of the guidance and the specific chapter that relates to their area of work.

CHAPTER 6: Specific arrangements and advice for health professionals

CHAPTER 7: Specific arrangements and advice for schools, colleges and universities

CHAPTER 8: Specific arrangements and advice for police officers

CHAPTER 9: Specific arrangements and advice for Children's Social Care

CHAPTER 10: Specific arrangements and advice for Adult Social Care

CHAPTER 11: Specific arrangements and advice for Housing Services

## APPENDIX 2: INFORMATION ABOUT THE FORCED MARRIAGE UNIT

### THE FORCED MARRIAGE UNIT

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The Forced Marriage Unit is a joint Foreign & Commonwealth Office and Home Office unit. It is the Government's central unit dealing with forced marriage casework, developing government policy and co-ordinating outreach projects.

#### What does the Forced Marriage Unit do?

**Casework** – The FMU provides confidential information and assistance to potential victims and concerned practitioners. It works with partners both in the UK and overseas to ensure that all appropriate action is taken to prevent a forced marriage taking place. The FMU also provides support and information to people who have already been forced to marry. Caseworkers in the Unit have experience of the cultural, social and emotional issues surrounding forced marriage.

The staff can offer information and support to people who:

- Fear that they are going to be forced into marriage (in the UK or overseas)
- Fear for a friend or relative who may be forced into marriage (in the UK or overseas)
- Have already been forced into marriage and want to consider their next steps

The staff can assist practitioners by:

- Providing information about existing networks within the UK, including children's social care, police, health and voluntary organisations
- Providing information on how to seek legal remedies in the UK and overseas.

**Policy** – The FMU develops future government policy for tackling forced marriage. In order to do this, the Unit works with a wide range of partners including non-governmental organisations (NGOs), and women's groups, the police, social care services, education, health and legal professionals. The Unit aims to develop policies that bring together key elements of Government e.g. the education, welfare and legal systems, to combat forced marriage.

**Projects** – The FMU manages and co-ordinates government projects on forced marriage. These projects are designed to:

- Increase awareness amongst potential victims of the help available and empower them to seek help
- Raise understanding amongst key practitioners of how to tackle it
- Work together with community and voluntary groups to create effective local partnerships against the abuse

**How to contact the Forced Marriage Unit (Monday – Friday 09.00 – 17.00)**

Forced Marriage Unit  
Room G/55

Foreign & Commonwealth Office Telephone: 020 7008 0151

Old Admiralty Building Email: [fmu@fco.gov.uk](mailto:fmu@fco.gov.uk)

Whitehall Website: [www.fco.gov.uk/forcedmarriage](http://www.fco.gov.uk/forcedmarriage)

London  
SW1A 2PA

For out-of-hours emergencies with an overseas dimension, involving British nationals, please telephone 020 7008 1500 and ask to speak to the Foreign & Commonwealth Office Response Centre.

## APPENDIX 3: RESOURCES

[Information for Forced Marriage Victims](#) provides details of leaflets and organisations that provide support and advice.

The Forced Marriage Unit produces a number of resource leaflets also available on that web page:

- What is forced marriage?
- Forced Marriage Survivor's Handbook
- Guide to Forced Marriage for LGBT people

Detailed information about agencies that may be able to assist with cases of Forced Marriage is contained in Appendix 3 of the [Multi-Agency Practice Guidelines: handling cases of forced marriage](#)

### **Background information**

[The right to choose: multi-agency statutory guidelines on Forced Marriage](#) was published on November 25<sup>th</sup> 2008. It describes the strategic responsibilities of statutory agencies. All Local Authorities and schools should be aware of the functions outlined in this guidance. It complements the multi-agency guidelines referred to in this protocol.

[Forced Marriage - Prevalence and Service Response](#) (DCSF, July 2009)

There are resources to support Forced Marriage awareness-raising available on the Every Child Matters website.

<http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/everychildmatters/safeguardingandsocialcare/safeguardingchildren/forcedmarriage/forcedmarriage/>