

# FORCED MARRIAGE DESTROYS LIVES



Everyone has the **Right2Choose**

## WHAT IS IT?

A forced marriage is where one or both people do not (or in cases of people with learning disabilities, cannot) consent to the marriage and pressure or abuse is used. Forced Marriage is a breach of human rights and a criminal offence in the UK

## IMPACT

Forced Marriage transcends many cultures, religions, class, gender and sexuality and can result in false imprisonment, kidnapping, threats of violence, blackmail, rape, assault, domestic violence and 'honour' based abuse

## FORCED MARRIAGE WARNING SIGNS



### EDUCATION

- Truancy
- Failure to return from visits to country of origin
- Surveillance by siblings or cousins
- Poor performance in class/disengaged
- Being removed from education by those with parental responsibility
- Prevented from further education
- Announcement of engagement to a stranger
- Not allowed to attend extra-curricular activities

### EMPLOYMENT

- Sudden changes in behaviour/performance
- Limited career choices
- Leaving/Arriving work accompanied
- Unable to attend business trips or functions.
- Subject to financial control e.g. confiscation of wages / income
- Not allowed to work
- Inflexible working



### HEALTH

- Accompanied to doctors or clinic
- Self harm/Attempted Suicide
- Eating disorders
- Depression/Isolation
- Substance misuse
- Early/Unwanted pregnancy
- Female genital mutilation
- Sudden removal from a day centre of a person with a physical/learning disability

### FAMILY

- History of self-harm/suicide/early marriage of sibling
- Confiscation of mobile/laptop/money
- Running away from home
- Restricted movement
- Fear of going home



### POLICE INVOLVEMENT

- Reports of domestic abuse or breaches of the peace at the family home
- Other siblings within the family reported missing
- Victim reported for offences e.g. shoplifting/substances misuse
- Reports of other offences such as rape, assault or kidnappings



Supporting South Asian Women in the UK

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