



One Minute Guide

## Forced marriage (FM) and Honour-Based Abuse (HBA)

### ▪ What is a forced marriage?

A forced marriage is where one or both people do not consent to the marriage and pressure or abuse is used. Those assessed to lack capacity, cannot consent.

### ▪ What the difference between a forced and an arranged marriage?

Forced marriage is **different** to arranged marriage where families are involved in selecting a partner, but **it is up to the individuals to decide whether or not to enter the marriage.**

Some structures that are used in an arranged marriage may also be used in a forced marriage and this can often become confusing in distinguishing between them. The key distinction is that a forced marriage involves **a lack of consent by one or both parties and where coercion or pressure may be a factor.**

### The Law

The Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 made it a **criminal offence** in England, Wales and Scotland to force someone to marry. It can result in up to 7 years imprisonment.

FMPO's are civil law measures and can be applied for in the family court. Failure to comply with the requirements or terms set out in a FMPO granted by the Family Court, is a criminal offence and can result in a sentence of up to 5 years in prison.

**In 2017 the government introduced lifelong anonymity for victims of forced marriage to encourage more victims of this hidden crime to come forward.**

## CONSIDER- CONTACT-CONSULT!

### LINKS TO STATUTORY GUIDANCE ON HOW TO HANDLE CASES OF FORCED MARRIAGE:

HM Government Multi-agency practice guidelines: Handling cases of Forced Marriage  
([publishing.service.gov.uk](https://publishing.service.gov.uk))

HM Government - The Right to Choose: Multi-agency statutory guidance for dealing with forced marriage  
([publishing.service.gov.uk](https://publishing.service.gov.uk))

Forced Marriage and learning disabilities guidelines FINAL.PDF  
([publishing.service.gov.uk](https://publishing.service.gov.uk))

### VICTIM OF FM/HBA AND ON A SPOUSAL VISA WITH NO RECOURSE TO PUBLIC FUNDS? GET LEGAL ADVICE AND CONSIDER DDVC FOR FUNDING:

Apply for destitution domestic violence (DDV) concession - GOV.UK  
([www.gov.uk](https://www.gov.uk))

Help & Support for Refugees | Coventry Refugee and Migrant Centre  
([covrefugee.org](https://covrefugee.org))

Immigration law - Rights of Women

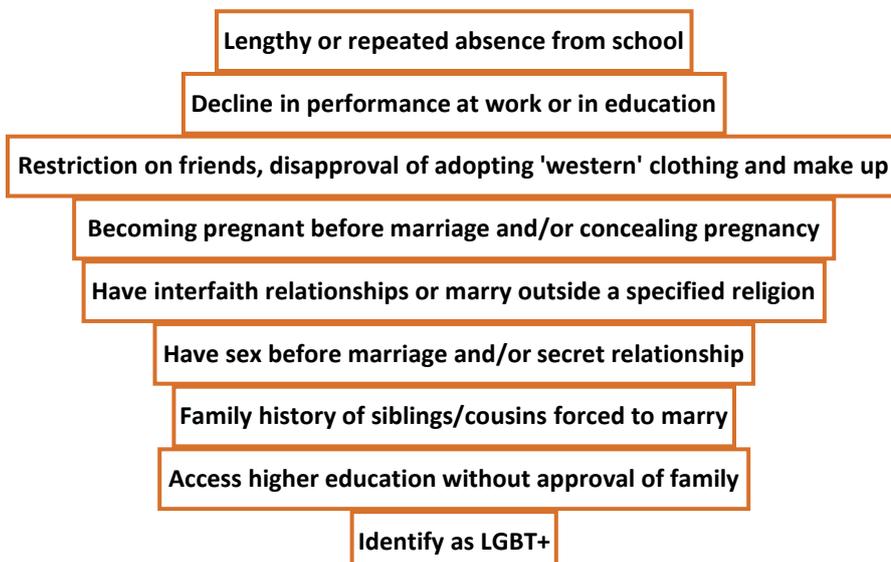
- What is honour-based abuse?

There is no specific offence of 'honour'-based abuse. However, the Crown Prosecution Service describes HBA as an incident or crime "which has, or may have, been committed to protect or defend the 'honour' of the family and or the community." 'Honour' can be the motivation, excuse or justification behind a range of violent acts against women and girls. **Forms of HBA include:**

See also: [Public Health Webinar - HBA](#)



**Warning signs of HBA include, but not limited to:**



**CONSIDER- CONTACT- CONSULT!**

**LOCAL**

**Safe to Talk: 0800 111 4998**

**www.safetotalk.org.uk**

**Panahgar: 0800 055 6519**  
**Open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week**  
**besafe@safehouse.org.uk**

**West Midlands Forced Marriage and Honour Based Abuse 24 Hour Helpline and Outreach Support 0800 953 9777**

**NATIONAL**

**Forced Marriage Unit (FMU)**  
**Contact:**  
**+44 (0) 20 7008 0151**  
**fmu@fcdo.gov.uk**

- *Taken abroad*

*Contact the FMU if you think the victim is about to be taken abroad to get married against their will. Contact the nearest British embassy if they're already abroad.*

**Karma Nirvana**  
**0800 5999 247 –helpline support for victims and professionals**  
**support@karmanirvana.org.uk**

**If working with the Police, a request can be made to speak to an officer specialising in FM/HBA issues however, this may not be available on demand.**

## **RULES TO REMEMBER:**

### **ONE CHANCE RULE:**

The belief that there might only be one chance to speak to a potential victim and, therefore, have one chance to save a life. Attempt to gather as much information as possible within the first contact in order to ensure they get the help and support they need.

### **SPOON IN UNDERWEAR:**

As a last resort, suggest placing a 'spoon in your underwear' so the victim will trigger metal detectors at the airport and be taken aside somewhere, away from their family, giving time to speak privately about being taken abroad to be forced to marry.

Abuse can happen to anyone, regardless of culture, religion or tradition. It is important to focus on the victim, and not to mediate.



**Panahghar**  
For Lives Free From Violence