



STAFF POLICY

Forced Marriage and Honour Based Violence

Forced marriage is a form of domestic abuse. There is a clear difference between a forced marriage and an 'arranged marriage' and the two should not be confused.

Honour based violence is also a form a domestic abuse.

Cases should be tackled regardless of the cultural issues using policies and procedures designed to safeguard children, vulnerable adults and victims of domestic abuse, like the Domestic Abuse Policy.

In many cases, forced marriage is just the beginning of an abusive relationship. Victims then go on to suffer more traditional types of domestic abuse.

It is important to recognise honour based violence for what it is. It has nothing do to with honour, it is about behaving in an abusive way to make somebody do something against their will, or to punish somebody for behaving in a certain way. Honour based violence is a crime in the same way that domestic abuse is a crime.

If a person tells you that they suspect they will be taken abroad and forced to marry you must give them the following advice:

- Leave a photocopy of their passport with a trusted friend or us
- Gather as much information as possible about the family including
 - Victims full personal details
 - Fathers name
 - Grandfather name
 - Potential spouses details
 - Date and place of proposed wedding (if known)
 - Address of extended family, both here and overseas
 - Details of travel plans
- Advise them to take some emergency cash and if possible a hidden mobile phone that can be used abroad

- Advise them to contact the Forced Marriage Unit, 020 7008 0151, and let them do so whilst in the office
- It is also best to provide details of the nearest British Embassy (you will be able to find this information on the internet)
- If the person is aged under 18 make an emergency referral to Children's Services on 0161 255 8250 whilst the young person is still with you.
- If the person is aged over 18 discuss options available under the Domestic Abuse Policy and Procedure, including self help methods. It is possible to apply to the courts for a "Forced Marriage Protection Order" using legal aid assistance.

All cases of alleged or suspected forced marriage or honour based violence should be brought to the attention of one of the Northwards Domestic Abuse Champions.