

# Forced Marriage

**A** forced marriage is where one or both people involved do not agree to that marriage and where duress is involved. Duress can be from parents, Carers, other family members, friends and the wider community.

Victims can be put under enormous pressure to marry. This can include physical, emotional and sexual abuse (can be called honour based violence); sometimes victims can be killed or commit suicide.

Forced marriage and honour based violence can happen everywhere; across Birmingham, Coventry, Sandwell and Wolverhampton in 2015, there were 551 cases to specialist domestic violence agencies in our Consortium.

We are here to help if you, or anyone you know, is in fear of a forced marriage.

*“Phoning the Helpline was the best thing I did. I didn't know what to do, I told them I didn't want to get married but they carried on anyway, no-one listened to me and I was getting very frightened. There was such a lot of pressure and I ended up cutting myself to deal with it. After I phoned the Helpline, I got a lot of support. Now I am free of that marriage and can look forward to my future”.*

Minaz 19 years old

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Marriage is seen as a happy event in our lives but for some it can turn into a nightmare... being forced into a marriage is wrong and a crime.

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# If you need support, please call:



T: **0808 800 0028**



T: **0121 552 6448**

**Coventry  
Haven**

T: **02476 444077**



T: **0800 0194 400**

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**We offer confidential help, advice and support.  
If you are in immediate danger, please call the Police.**

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***The West Midlands Specialist Domestic Abuse Consortium***

Part of 'Our Girl' national prevention and awareness campaign on forced marriage.



**west midlands  
office for policing  
and crime**

