

## Vulnerable Adults Facing Forced Marriages

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## Decision making in relation to forced marriage

- Asian people with learning difficulties are being abused by family, friends and the community.
- Decisions are being made about forced marriages for people with learning difficulties without discussion with them or their consent.

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## Forced Marriage

- Forced marriage is not a religious or cultural practice.
- Forced marriage is abuse of ones human right.
- Forced marriage is a marriage without consent.

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## The differences between forced and arranged marriage

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| • FORCED   | • ARRANGED  |
| • Is when a person isn't given a choice.         | • Is when a person is given a say & choice          |
| • When one person isn't agreeing to the marriage | • Is when all parties are agreeing to the marriage. |
| • It is not a religious or cultural practice     | • Is an cultural practice to find a suitable match. |

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## Case Studies

- Rani
- Raj
- Iqbal
- Sita

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## THE IMPACT OF MARRIAGE

### POSITIVE

Full time carer  
Be valued member of society  
Children  
Have a job  
Attend college  
Sexual relations  
Contact with family and friends  
Visa ,Immigration  
Financial gain

### NEGATIVE

Victim Sexual abuse  
Physical abuse  
Financial abuse  
Verbal abuse  
Visa, Immigration  
Loss of support networks  
Not allowed to work  
No family contact  
Children

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WHY OTHERS MAY FEEL THAT THEY ARE ALLOWED TO MAKE LIFE CHANGING DECISIONS ON BEHALF OF A PERSON WITH LEARNING DIFFICULTIES

- 'Izatt' (honour).
- To not bring shame on the family and community.
- To marry someone of the same class and religion.
- To overcome the shame of living with someone without being married.
- Finance and dowry.
- Immigration to this country.

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WHAT CAN WE DO?

- Be aware.
- Be willing to challenge.
- Be informed by research.
- Take responsibility.
- Be clear about protection not political correction

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WE ARE HERE TO PROTECT THE VULNERABLE ADULT, NOT THE COMMUNITY OR PEOPLE WHO DO NOT GIVE THEM CHOICES

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Government Guidelines

- Forced marriages a wrong not a right.
- Young people and vulnerable adults facing forced marriages practice guidelines for Social Workers.
- These have been published by the Home Office and the Foreign and Commonwealth Office

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HOW MANY OF YOU THOUGHT ABOUT THIS ISSUE BEFORE TODAY?

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