

WHAT IS FORCED MARRIAGE?

Forced marriage is an abuse of human rights in which a marriage occurs without the free and full consent of the individuals getting married.

Forced marriage is a social practice that occurs worldwide. **It can happen to anyone** regardless of citizenship status, religion, culture, age, sexual orientation or gender.

Forced marriage is different than arranged marriage. In arranged marriages, the parties involved have the freedom to accept a marriage arrangement and consent. In forced marriages, consent is not freely given and the party – or both parties – are forced to marry against their will.



IF YOU OR SOMEONE YOU KNOW ARE BEING FORCED INTO MARRIAGE...

Being forced to marry, whether it's through physical or emotional pressure, is abuse.

The important thing to remember is that you are not alone. Help is available for you and to support individuals within a forced marriage. If someone discloses that a marriage is being forced on them, you can assist by referring them to appropriate services and by offering non-judgemental and empathetic support.

You are not wrong for making the brave decision to stand against forced marriage. Everyone has the right to live in safety and make their own decisions.

Check the resource list for some agency numbers that you can call for guidance.

This brochure provides general information to guide you in understanding the issue and the resources that are available. Visit endforcedmarriages.ca for access to a more comprehensive resource list.

TRAVEL OVERSEAS

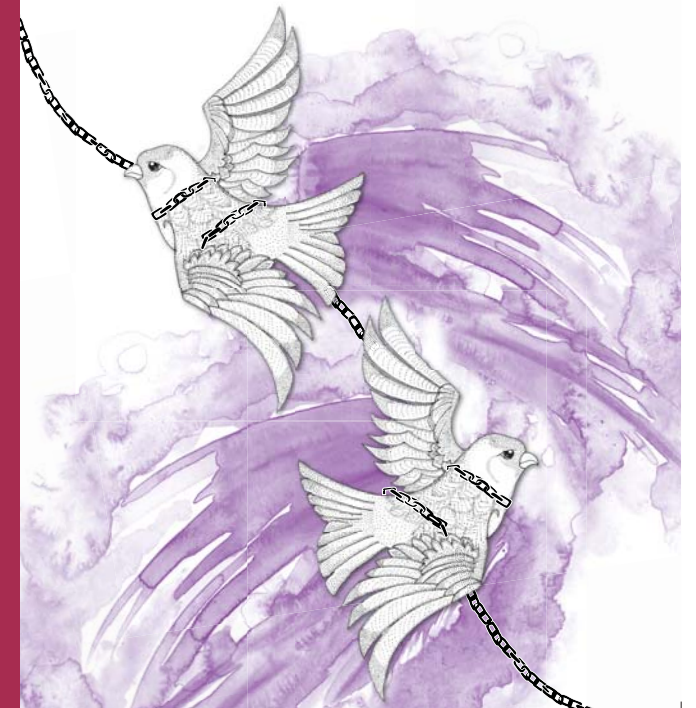
If you fear you might be forced into a marriage overseas it's recommended you don't agree to travel.

If travel becomes unavoidable, you should:

- Register online with the government before traveling: www.travel.gc.ca
- Keep some emergency cash with you
- Carry the contact information of the nearest Canadian embassy or consulate.

Provide a trusted person with:

- Address and telephone number of where you are going to stay
- Your passport details
- Your flight details (there and back)



RESOURCES

For more comprehensive information on seeking help visit:

www.endforcedmarriages.ca

For a directory of resources across BC visit:

www.endingviolence.org/need-help

For a directory of resources across Canada visit:

www.endingviolencecanada.org/getting-help

Emergency Contacts

If there is an emergency situation, immediately call 911 for assistance.

Victimlink BC, 24/7, 110 different languages

Phone: 1-800-563-0808

Text: 604-836-6381

Website: www.victimlinkbc.ca

Kids help phone

Contact: 1-800-668-6868

Website: www.kidshelpphone.ca

Community resources

MOSAIC

Phone: 604-254-9626

Website: www.mosaicbc.com

Burnaby Family Life

Phone: 604-659-2200

Website: www.burnabyfamilylife.org

Vancouver & Lower Mainland Multicultural Family Support Services (Burnaby)

Phone: 604-436-1025

Website: www.vlmfss.ca



When Abroad

Department of Foreign Affairs, Trade and Development (DFATD)

Phone: 1-800-267-6788 (North America)

International: 1-613-996-8885 (Call Collect from anywhere in the world)

Website: www.travel.gc.ca

Email for help: sos@international.gc.ca

ABOUT US

This resource brochure is a part of MOSAIC and EVA BC's, Department of Justice funded forced marriage project.

The objective of this project is to increase awareness of the issue of forced marriage in the community and better assist individuals facing forced marriage by enhancing the service capacity of community agencies.

Funded by:



Department of Justice
Canada

Ministère de la Justice
Canada



ENDING VIOLENCE
Association of BC

END FORCED MARRIAGE



Everyone has the right to live
free from violence and coercion

ENDFORCEDMARRIAGE.CA