

Where to go for help

Community Safety Unit (020) 3276 2610

Wandsworth Police.

Forced Marriage Unit (020) 7008 0151

(Foreign & Commonwealth Office)
www.gov.uk/fco

Iranian and Kurdish Women's Rights Organisation (020) 7920 6460

www.ikwro.org.uk

KARMA NIRVANA : Honour Network Helpline 0800 5999 247

A national charity set up by survivors of forced marriage, a specially trained advisor who understands the issues around honour based abuse and forced marriage will provide you with independent, impartial and confidential advice.

Monday – Friday 9:30am – 5pm

www.karmanirvana.org.uk

National 24hr Domestic Violence Helpline 0808 2000 247

www.womensaid.org.uk www.refuge.org.uk

Wandsworth Council

Office hours are Monday to Friday 9am-5pm (excl bank holidays).
For out of hours emergencies please call (020) 8871 6000
www.wandsworth.gov.uk

Adult Social Services Access Team (020) 8871 7707
email: accessteam@wandsworth.gov.uk

Children's Specialist Services (020) 8871 6622
email: cssduty@wandsworth.gov.uk

Community Safety Division (020) 8871 6437
email: communitysafety@wandsworth.gov.uk

Housing Options and Assessment (020) 8871 6840
email: housingadvice@wandsworth.gov.uk

Wandsworth One Stop Shop 07884 340 117

Drop-in support service offering confidential advice and legal support to people living with domestic violence and abuse.

Monday 10am- 12:30pm (not bank holidays)
Battersea Arts Centre, Lavender Hill, SW11 5TN

Wandsworth Safety Net (020) 7801 1777

Independent and confidential advocacy service for all victims of domestic violence and abuse.

email: safespace@wandsworth.gov.uk

Be careful!

Try to use a different computer or clear your browser history and only call if you know that nobody is around and you have privacy.

If you feel that you are at risk of a forced marriage abroad – seek immediate advice.

If you are a British citizen and need help overseas contact the nearest British Embassy. Trained consular officers can give advice and assistance in forced marriage cases. In extreme cases they may undertake a rescue. They can also help with arrangements for a safe return to the UK.

For more information call

The Forced Marriage Unit (020) 7008 0151

If you are being forced into a marriage in the UK or know someone who is:

- Call Karma Nirvana
- Speak with the registrar in private
- Call the police

Remember: it's your life, it's your choice! Do not feel afraid to call 999 or contact airport security if you are being taken abroad against your will.

If you are worried about someone you know being forced into a marriage contact Wandsworth Council or the local police on 101. In an emergency call 999.

For more information about forced marriage and honour based violence visit:

fis.wandsworth.gov.uk/forcedmarriage
fis.wandsworth.gov.uk/honourviolence

Wandsworth Council
(020) 8871 6437

www.wandsworth.gov.uk

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Are you or someone you know at risk of a Forced Marriage?

Information, advice and support for Wandsworth residents
In partnership with Karma Nirvana



What is a forced marriage?

A marriage in which one or both spouses do not consent to the marriage. Some people will not be able to consent, for example if they have a learning disability.

What is the difference between a forced marriage and arranged marriage?

Some people confuse forced marriage with arranged marriage. The main difference is that both people in an arranged marriage consent to it and can say no without any physical or emotional consequences.

If there is any emotional or psychological abuse, physical violence or sexual abuse, the marriage is forced.

Forced marriage is illegal

Forcing someone to marry is illegal in England & Wales, it is also illegal to:

- Take someone abroad to force them to marry
- Marry someone who lacks the mental capacity to consent
- Breach a Forced Marriage Protection Order

A person found guilty of the offence of forced marriage can face up to seven years in prison (five years for breaching a Forced Marriage Protection Order), even if the marriage did not take place.

The person could also face charges for a range of offences because of the forced marriage including rape, violence, kidnapping, false imprisonment, theft and blackmail.

Protect yourself

Many forced marriages take place abroad. Do not travel if you feel that you are at risk. You may not have access to protection abroad if there is civil unrest and/or no British Embassy.

If you have concerns about being forced to travel call

Karma Nirvana
0800 5999 247
www.karmanirvana.org.uk

If you are still travelling:

- Take enough foreign currency with you in case you need to make a phone call, use a taxi or pay for a hotel
- Make sure you take a phone which will work abroad. Keep it hidden
- Keep important numbers on your phone as well as on a list. Visit www.gov.uk/fco to find the number for the British embassy nearest to where you are travelling
- Talk to Karma Nirvana

If you are being taken abroad against your will, call 999 or alert airport security.

In the UK

You may want to consider taking out a Forced Marriage Protection Order. These are individually written for you and issued by a court for your protection against a forced marriage. For more information contact the Forced Marriage Unit on (020) 7008 0151

Questions you may have

If I tell someone, will my family be told?

Nobody will tell your family anything that will put you in danger. Karma Nirvana will never talk to your family. Wandsworth Council and the Police will take steps to reduce the risk of harm to you.

If I ask for help, will my parents go to jail?

Not necessarily. There are many ways that you could be supported and protected. This includes counselling and mediation, taking out a protection order or moving you away from home to somewhere safe.

It's my religion - I can't say "no"

No major religion accepts marriage which is forced or pressured. It is against the values of Christianity, Islam, Judaism, Hinduism, Buddhism and Sikhism.

Am I shaming my family by not agreeing?

It's your life, your safety. Think about your future. You are not shaming anybody; the real shame is the person trying to force you to marry someone you do not want to.

Nobody understands what my family are like

There are others who face similar problems. Frontline professionals have received a lot of training on working with families from communities where 'honour' based abuse takes place.

Unless I agree to the marriage, I have nowhere to go

There are a number of places where you could go to stay safe and be around others who know how you feel. You will be supported and cared for in whatever decision you make.

I'm not being 'forced', but I am under pressure to marry someone I do not want to

Marriage is a life long commitment. If you are feeling pressured by your family, unsure about a marriage or can't be with the one you love because you are afraid of what your family will say or do, talk to Karma Nirvana.