For more information about forced marriage and honour based violence visit:
www.fis.wandsworth.gov.uk/forcedmarriage
www.fis.wandsworth.gov.uk/honourviolence

Wandsworth Council  
(020) 8871 6437  
www.wandsworth.gov.uk

Are you or someone you know 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:  
www.fis.wandsworth.gov.uk/forcedmarriage
www.fis.wandsworth.gov.uk/honourviolence

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(020) 8871 6437  
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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.
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.

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.

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