



Forced Marriage  
Honor Based Violence (HBV)  
Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)  
Preventing Radicalisation

## Forced Marriage

### What is an arranged marriage?

Arranged marriages have worked well in society for many years. Families of both spouses take a leading role in arranging the marriage but the choice whether or not to accept the arrangement remains with the prospective spouses.

### What is a Forced Marriage?

One or more partners do not (or in the case of some vulnerable adults, cannot) consent to the marriage, and duress is involved. Duress can include physical, psychological, financial, sexual and emotional pressure. Forced Marriage is an abuse of Human Rights and cannot be justified on any grounds. Forced marriage is not an arranged marriage, nor is it in any way a religious practice.

The government defines it as:

*'A marriage conducted without the valid consent of both parties where duress (emotional pressure in addition to physical abuse) is a factor.'*

The government's Forced Marriage Unit deals with 5,000 enquiries and 300 cases of forced marriage each year. 30% of these concern under-18s and 15% are men.

The UK Government and the Welsh Assembly Government regard forced marriage as an abuse of human rights and a form of domestic abuse and, where it affects children and young people, child abuse. It can happen to both men and women although most cases involve young women and girls aged between 13 and 30. There is no "typical" victim of forced marriage. **Since June 14 this has now become a criminal offence.**

[The Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014](#) makes it a criminal offence to force someone to marry

This includes:

- Taking someone overseas to force them to marry (whether or not the forced marriage takes place)
- Marrying someone who lacks the mental capacity to consent to the marriage (whether they're pressured to or not)
- Breaching a Forced Marriage Protection Order is also a criminal offence
- The civil remedy of obtaining a Forced Marriage Protection Order through the family courts will continue to exist alongside the new criminal offence, so victims can choose how they wish to be assisted
- Details of the new law can be found on the [Legislation website](#)

### If a potential victim of forced marriage seeks your help, you should:

- If the potential victim is due to travel imminently, give them the [details of the British embassy or high commission](#) in the country they are travelling to. Try to gather as much information - such as their passport details, dates of travel and destination - from them as possible.

- See them immediately in a secure and private place where the conversation cannot be overheard.
- See them on their own – even if they attend with others.
- Explain all the options to them.
- Recognise and respect their wishes.
- Perform a risk assessment – there are already a number of risk assessment tools available, including CAADA/DASH, however it will be best to use a tool as guided by your specific agency.
- Contact a trained specialist (forced marriage specialist) as soon as possible.
- If the young person is under 18 years of age, refer them to the designated person responsible for safeguarding children and activate local safeguarding procedures.
- If the person is an adult with support needs, refer them to the designated person responsible for safeguarding vulnerable adults and activate local safeguarding procedures.
- If an adult discloses to an NHS professional that they are in a FM situation, and states that they don't want any further action taken about it, their rights as a patient would need to be respected and patient confidentiality maintained, no reports or referrals made etc. This is the case for rape and domestic abuse too.
- Reassure the victim about confidentiality where appropriate i.e. practitioners will not inform their family.
- Establish and agree an effective method of contacting the victim discreetly in the future, possibly using a code word to confirm identity.
- Obtain full contact details that can be forwarded to a trained specialist.
- Where appropriate, consider the need for immediate protection and placement away from the family.
- If an adult approaches you, do everything you can to persuade them to engage with the police. They may be at significant risk of harm, and engaging with the police will provide opportunities for police and partner agencies to minimise that risk, working with the potential victim in a sensitive manner.

**If a potential victim of forced marriage seeks your help, you should not:**

- Treat their allegations merely as a domestic issue or an acceptable cultural issue and send them back to the family home;
- Ignore what they have told you or dismiss out of hand the need for immediate protection;
- Approach their family, their friends or people with influence within their community without their express consent - this will alert those people to your enquiries, and could increase the risk to the potential victim;
- Contact their family in advance of any enquiries, either by telephone or letter;

Or

- Try to be a mediator.

Mediation, reconciliation and family counselling as a response to forced marriage can be extremely dangerous. There have been cases of victims being murdered while mediation was being undertaken. Do not undertake any of these activities, as you may unwittingly place the potential victim in further danger.

Call the Forced Marriage Unit on 020 7008 0151 for further help and support.

## Honour Based Violence (HBV)

Definition:

'Murder in the name of so-called honour' are murders in which, predominantly women, are killed for actual or perceived immoral behaviour, which is deemed to have breached the honour code of a family or community, causing shame. They are sometimes called 'honour killings'. There is, however, no honour in murder.

The honour code means that women must follow rules that are set at the discretion of male relatives and which are interpreted according to what each male family member considers acceptable. Breaking the rules is seen as destroying the good name of the family, and is deserving of punishment at the discretion of male relatives. Honour is an unwritten code of conduct that involves loss of face on someone's part if offended against, especially in groups where loyalty is considered paramount.

Honour Based Violence cuts across all cultures and communities: Turkish, Kurdish, Afghani, South Asian, African, Middle Eastern, South and Eastern European for example. This is not an exhaustive list. Where a culture is heavily male dominated, HBV may exist.

Home Office figures suggest there are around 12 'honour' killings each year, but the total is likely to be far higher.

Evidence shows that where murders occur, most often wives are murdered by their husbands and daughters by their fathers. HBV is often a child protection issue. Males can also be victims, sometimes as a consequence of their involvement in what is deemed to be an inappropriate relationship, if they are gay or if they are believed to be supporting the victim.

Relatives including females may conspire, aid, abet or participate in the killing. Younger relatives may be selected to undertake the killing, to avoid senior family members being arrested. Sometimes contract killers are employed. Just the perception or rumour of immoral behaviour may be sufficient to kill.

Evidence shows that these types of murders are often planned and are sometimes made to look like a suicide, or an accident. A decision to kill may be preceded by a family council. There tends to be a degree of premeditation, family conspiracy and a belief that the victim deserved to die.

When dealing with potential victims it is important to recognise the seriousness/immediacy of the risk. Incidents that may precede a murder include:

Forced marriage	Domestic violence
Attempts to separate or divorce	Starting a new relationship
Pregnancy	Threats to kill or denial of access to children
Pressure to go abroad	House arrest and excessive restrictions
access to the telephone, internet, passport and friends	Denial of

Where a victim has fled, be aware that members of the family may make false allegations of crime against them in an attempt to enlist your support to track them down. This may be in the guise of missing person reports or an alleged theft. They may also employ bounty hunters/contract killers to trace and return the victim. There is specific refuge provision available for victims of HBV and the Forced Marriage Unit are available for help as before.

## Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)

Female Genital Mutilation comprises all procedures involving the partial or total removal of the external female genitalia or any other injury to the female genital organs for non-medical reasons.

FGM is sometimes known as 'female genital cutting' or female circumcision. Communities tend to use local names for referring to this practice, including 'sunna'.

**FGM is considered a grave violation of the rights of girls and women.** . Since June 14 this has now become a criminal offence

The age at which girls undergo FGM varies enormously according to the ethnic group practising it.

The procedure may be carried out when the girl is newborn, during childhood, adolescence, at marriage or during the first labour.

The World Health Organisation estimates that 3 million girls undergo some form of the procedure every year. It is practiced in 28 countries in Africa and some in the Middle East and Asia. FGM is also found in the UK amongst members of migrant communities. **It is estimated that up to 24,000 girls in the UK, under the age of 15 are at risk of FGM.** UK communities that are most at risk of FGM include Kenyans, Somalis, Sudanese, Sierra Leoneans, Egyptians, Nigerians and Eritreans. Non-African communities that practise FGM include Yemeni, Kurdish, Indonesian and Pakistani.

What are the signs that a girl may be at risk of FGM?

Suspicious may arise in a number of ways that a child is being prepared for FGM to take place abroad. These include knowing that the family belongs to a community in which FGM is practised and is making preparations for the child to take a holiday, arranging vaccinations or planning absence from school. The child may also talk about a 'special procedure/ceremony' that is going to take place.

Indicators that FGM may already have occurred include prolonged absence from school, with noticeable behaviour change on return and long periods away from classes or other normal activities, possibly with bladder or menstrual problems. Some teachers have described how children find it difficult to sit still and look uncomfortable or may complain of pain between their legs. You must report any concerns to your CPLO. We recommend you also call FORWARD as they provide support, counselling and safe space for girls and women to talk about their experiences. They can also educate and work with families to prevent FGM happening to any other girls in the family. There are also specialist health services available to women who have undergone FGM.

Depending on the degree of mutilation, FGM can have a number of short-term health implications: severe pain and shock, infection, urine retention, injury to adjacent tissues, immediate fatal haemorrhaging.

Long-term implications can entail: extensive damage of the external reproductive system

uterus, vaginal and pelvic infections , cysts and neuromas, increased risk of complications in pregnancy and child birth, psychological damage, sexual dysfunction, difficulties in menstruation.

The Female Genital Mutilation Act was introduced in 2003 and came into effect in March 2004.

It is illegal to:

- Practice FGM in the UK;
- Take girls who are British nationals or permanent residents of the UK abroad for FGM whether or not it is lawful in that country;
- To aid, abet, counsel or procure the carrying out of FGM abroad;
- FGM has a penalty of up to 14 years in prison and/or a fine

When mandatory reporting commences in October 2015 these procedures will remain when dealing with concerns regarding the potential for FGM to take place. Where a teacher discovers that an act of FGM appears to have been carried out on a girl who is aged under 18, there will be a statutory duty upon that individual to report it to the police.

### **Mandatory Reporting Duty**

Section 5B of the Female Genital Mutilation Act 2003 (as inserted by section 74 of the Serious Crime Act 2015) will place a statutory duty upon **teachers, along with social workers and healthcare professionals, to report to the police** where they discover (either through disclosure by the victim or visual evidence) that FGM appears to have been carried out on a girl under 18. Those failing to report such cases will face disciplinary sanctions. It will be rare for teachers to see visual evidence, and they should not be examining pupils, but the same definition of what is meant by “to discover that an act of FGM appears to have been carried out” is used for all professionals to whom this mandatory reporting duty applies.

The Mandatory reporting duty will commence in October 2015. Once introduced, teachers must report to the police cases where they discover that an act of FGM appears to have been carried out. Unless the teacher has a good reason not to, they should still consider and discuss any such case with the school’s designated safeguarding lead and involve children’s social care as appropriate.

### **Preventing Radicalisation**

Protecting children from the risk of radicalisation should be seen as part of schools’ wider safeguarding duties, and is similar in nature to protecting children from other forms of harm and abuse. During the process of radicalisation it is possible to intervene to prevent vulnerable people being radicalised.

Radicalisation refers to the process by which a person comes to support terrorism and forms of extremism. There is no single way of identifying an individual who is likely to be susceptible to an extremist ideology. It can happen in many different ways and settings. Specific background factors may contribute to vulnerability which are often combined with specific influences such as family, friends or online, and with specific needs for which an extremist or terrorist group may appear to provide an answer. The internet and the use of social media in particular has become a major factor in the radicalisation of young people.

As with managing other safeguarding risks, staff should be alert to changes in children's behaviour which could indicate that they may be in need of help or protection. School staff should use their professional judgement in identifying children who might be at risk of radicalisation and act proportionately which may include making a referral to the Channel programme.

## **Prevent**

From 1 July 2015 specified authorities, including all schools as defined in the summary of this guidance, are subject to a duty under section 26 of the Counter- Terrorism and Security Act 2015 ("the CTSA 2015"), in the exercise of their functions, to have "due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism". This duty is known as the Prevent duty. It applies to a wide range of public-facing bodies. Bodies to which the duty applies [must have regard to statutory guidance issued under section 29 of the CTSA 2015](#) ("the Prevent guidance"). Paragraphs 57-76 of the Prevent guidance are concerned specifically with schools (but also cover childcare). It is anticipated that the duty will come into force for sixth form colleges and FE colleges early in the autumn.

The statutory Prevent guidance summarises the requirements on schools in terms of four general themes: risk assessment, working in partnership, staff training and IT policies.

- Schools are expected to assess the risk of children being drawn into terrorism, including support for extremist ideas that are part of terrorist ideology. This means being able to demonstrate both a general understanding of the risks affecting children and young people in the area and a specific understanding of how to identify individual children who may be at risk of radicalisation and what to do to support them. Schools and colleges should have clear procedures in place for protecting children at risk of radicalisation. These procedures may be set out in existing safeguarding policies. It is not necessary for schools and colleges to have distinct policies on implementing the Prevent duty.
- The Prevent duty builds on existing local partnership arrangements. For example, governing bodies and proprietors of all schools should ensure that their safeguarding arrangements take into account the policies and procedures of Local Safeguarding Children Boards (LSCBs).
- The Prevent guidance refers to the importance of Prevent awareness training to equip staff to identify children at risk of being drawn into terrorism and to challenge extremist ideas. Individual schools are best placed to assess the training needs of staff in the light of their assessment of the risk to pupils at the school of being drawn into terrorism. As a minimum, however, schools should ensure that the designated safeguarding lead undertakes Prevent awareness training and is able to provide advice and support to other members of staff on protecting children from the risk of radicalisation.
- Schools must ensure that children are safe from terrorist and extremist material when accessing the internet in schools. Schools should ensure that suitable filtering is in place. It is also important that schools teach pupils about online safety more generally.

The Department for Education has also [published advice for schools on the Prevent duty](#). The advice is intended to complement the Prevent guidance and signposts other sources of advice and support.

## **Channel**

School staff should understand when it is appropriate to make a referral to the Channel programme. Channel is a programme which focuses on providing support at an early stage to people who are identified as being vulnerable to being drawn into terrorism. It provides a mechanism for schools to make referrals if they are concerned that an individual might be vulnerable to radicalisation. An individual's engagement with the programme is entirely voluntary at all stages.

Section 36 of the CTSA 2015 places a duty on local authorities to ensure Channel panels are in place. The panel must be chaired by the local authority and include the police for the relevant local authority area. Following a referral the panel will assess the extent to which identified individuals are vulnerable to being drawn into terrorism, and, where considered appropriate and necessary consent is obtained, arrange for support to be provided to those individuals. Section 38 of the CTSA 2015 requires partners of Channel panels to co-operate with the panel in the carrying out of its functions and with the police in providing information about a referred individual. Schools and colleges which are required to have regard to Keeping Children Safe in Education are listed in the CTSA 2015 as partners required to cooperate with local Channel panels.