

**Do it Now: Discuss these questions:**

How would you manage to communicate if you didn't know the language or the area?

How would you feel if you weren't allowed to do things you enjoy doing?

What would it be like to start a new life somewhere else all by yourself with a new family?

How would you feel if you decided not to go and your family disowned you?  
Where would you go?

# What is forced marriage and why does it happen?

**By the end of this lesson I will:**

- understand what a **forced marriage** is and what it is not
- understand the **cultural context** of forced marriages
- recognise **where to get help** if this happens to me or anyone I know.



# What is forced marriage?

Are these statements true or false?

'Forced marriages only happen in Asian families.'

'Forced marriages and arranged marriages are the same'.

'Forced marriages don't happen in the UK.'

'There's no law against forced marriage.'

'The parents know that what they're doing is wrong.'

'It's best not talk about it in case I offend someone.'



**Forced marriages only happen in Asian families.**

**False.**

Forced marriage is not restricted to the south Asian community.

There have been cases  
involving families from the Middle East, Europe and Africa.

Where are the girls from in [this video](#)?



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Forced marriages and arranged marriages are the same.

**False.**

In an arranged marriage, the bride and groom give their consent.

Forced marriage is carried out **without the consent** of the participants and often **involves pressure or coercion**.

Forced marriage is **not** permissible within any culture or religion.



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**Forced marriages don't happen in the UK.**

**False.**

Some forced marriages *are* carried out in the UK.

Consider this [example video](#):

*Where was Jazvinder born?*

*How old was she when she was taken out of school?*

*Did she agree to be married?*

*What happened to Jazvinder's older sister?*



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**There's no law against forced marriage.**

**False.**

It is **illegal** to force someone into marriage. The penalty is prosecution and up to seven years in jail.

When was it made illegal?  
See the story on the handout.



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**The parents know that what they're doing is wrong.**

**It depends.**

The concept of family honour means that some parents see nothing wrong with their behaviour. Their son/daughter may have been promised in marriage to a member of the extended family, such as a cousin. The wish to build family ties, keep wealth within the family and preserve cultural or religious traditions can override the wishes of their child.

For more information, see this [article](#).



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**It's best not talk about it in case I offend someone.**

**False.**

Forced marriage should not be treated with caution for fear of offending cultural sensitivities. It can involve child abuse, abduction, violence, rape, unwanted pregnancy and enforced abortion.

Refusing to marry can place a young person at risk of murder, sometimes also known as 'honour killing'.



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# Around the world, 14 million girls under the age of 18 marry each year.

That's around ...

- 1,166,666 a month
- 269,230 a week
- 38,461 a day
- 27 every minute
- one every two seconds.



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See this [video](#) for more information.

## Sazia's story

Watch this [video](#).

1. How do you think Sazia is feeling?
2. What would you do in Sazia's position and why?
3. Do you think Sazia's friend Basheera did the right thing?
4. What is Sazia's relationship with her parents like?
5. Could the teacher, Mrs Chandra, have done more? Could she have done things differently?

## What do you think Sazia should do next?

I think Sazia should ...

- go to Pakistan
- run away
- call Mrs Chandra.

See these [videos](#) about Sazia's choices.

## **If you or someone you know is being forced into a marriage, who can you speak to?**

- Your tutor
- Your head of house / head of year
- Another teacher
- The Forced Marriage Unit hotline / email address: 020 7008 0151 / [fmu@fco.gov.uk](mailto:fmu@fco.gov.uk)
- The Karma Nirvana helpline: 0800 5999 247

# What is forced marriage and why does it happen?

## I can:

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