

## Where to go for more information

### Contact the academy

If you have any questions or concerns about Forced Marriage and what it means for your child, please do not hesitate to contact the academy and speak to Helen Jackson, Head of Student Support and Family Services, on 01977622850.

### See our policies

We also have a service for pupils to contact us with any concerns:

[SafetyNet@delacyacademy.org.uk](mailto:SafetyNet@delacyacademy.org.uk)

### External sources

The following sources may also be useful for further information:

#### You can call the Forced Marriage Unit:

**(+44) (0) 207 008 0151** Monday – Friday 9-5pm  
**(+44) (0) 207 008 1500** Global Response Centre  
(out of hours)

**You can email:** [fm@fco.gov.uk](mailto:fm@fco.gov.uk)  
[www.gov.uk/forced-marriage](http://www.gov.uk/forced-marriage)

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/>

Call:  
ChildLine at any time on 0800 1111  
Samaritans 0845 790 9090  
Shelter (for housing advice) 0808 800 4444  
National Domestic Violence Helpline  
(24 Hour Freephone) 0808 2000 247

# De Lacy Academy Forced Marriage

## What is a forced marriage?

A forced marriage is where one or both people do not (or in cases of people with learning disabilities, cannot) consent to the marriage and pressure or abuse is used. It is illegal in Great Britain. It is recognised as a form of violence against women and men, domestic/child abuse and a serious abuse of human rights. A marriage must be entered into with the free and full consent of both parties; you should feel you have a choice and full consent of both parties; you should feel you have a choice.

An arranged marriage is not the same as a forced marriage. In an arranged marriage, the families take a leading role in choosing the marriage partner, but both parties are free to choose whether to enter into the marriage or not.

The pressure put on people to marry against their will can be physical (including threats, actual physical violence and sexual violence) or emotional and psychological (for example, when someone is made to feel like they're bringing shame on their family).

Financial abuse (taking your wages or not giving you any money) can also be a factor.

In some cases people may be taken abroad without knowing that they are to be married. When they arrive in that country, their passport(s)/travel documents may be taken to try to stop them from returning to the UK.

**If you or someone you know is being forced into a marriage, help and advice is available.**

## KEY TERMS

**Forced Marriage:** A forced marriage is where one or both people do not consent to the marriage and pressure or abuse is used

**Arranged Marriage:** Where the families take a leading role in choosing the marriage partner, but both parties are free to choose whether to enter into the marriage or not.

## What to do...

If you or someone you know is being forced into marriage either in the UK or abroad, you can contact the Forced Marriage Unit (FMU). The FMU provides information and assistance to potential/actual victims and frontline professionals. It works with partner organisations, both in the UK and overseas, to ensure that action is taken to try to prevent a forced marriage taking place – in the most extreme instances this involves rescue and repatriation. The FMU also provides support and information to individuals who have already been forced to marry. All caseworkers in the FMU have experience in dealing with the cultural, social and emotional issues surrounding forced marriage. The FMU can offer advice and support to anyone in the UK regardless of nationality. However, overseas British Embassies, High Commissions and Consulates can only provide consular assistance to British nationals, and in certain circumstances to an EU or Commonwealth national (but not in the country of their own nationality).

You can also talk to a teacher at school or Mrs Jackson who will listen to your concerns and provide support.

## What happens when I call the FMU Helpline?

You will speak to an experienced caseworker who will listen and offer you support and information that is tailored to your individual circumstances. They will give you information on your rights and the services available to you. We will not contact your family.

## I want to leave home but I cannot afford it. How is being homeless with no money a better life than a forced marriage?

There are refuges available for men, women, families and couples. There are also specialist services for LGBT individuals. Refuges are safe environments where you can receive practical help with access to counselling, welfare benefits and more permanent housing. You will be encouraged to become independent and to make your own decisions about your future. To find available refuge spaces you can call the National Domestic Violence Helpline.

## How can the Forced Marriage Unit guarantee my safety?

While they cannot guarantee your safety, they can put you in contact with agencies whose job it is to help safeguard you. You should always ring the Police if you are in immediate danger. Refuges can provide you with somewhere safe to stay if you choose to leave home.

## If I think I might be forced to marry when I go abroad, what should I do?

Think carefully before you decide to go abroad. Once you are abroad, it will be much harder to get help. If you do decide to travel contact the FMU for advice about your options abroad. If you are a British passport holder, you should also take the address and contact numbers of the nearest British High Commission/Embassy in the country you are visiting (call the FMU or go to <https://www.gov.uk/government/world/organisations>). Make sure you programme these numbers into your mobile phone. Take some money in pounds and local currency, a mobile phone with international credit and a copy of your ticket and passport. Make sure you keep these items safe and hidden.

## Information to leave with a trusted friend or the FMU

If you are worried that you or someone you know may be taken abroad, the information below should be recorded and kept safe. If you/they need assistance, this information will be essential.

- > Name and date of birth as shown on passport
- > Passport number (with date and place of issue)
- > Overseas contact details and address of where you'll be staying
- > Number of secret mobile phone taken overseas
- > Address and telephone number (including mobile) in the UK
- > A recent photograph
- > Contact details of a trusted third party in the UK
- > Parents' names and address
- > Departure and expected return date (copies of tickets if possible)
- > Names of those you are travelling with
- > Names of any family members remaining in the UK
- > Any other useful information such as any secret code words

