



# Forced Marriage



New laws  
to keep you safe



Forced Marriage Helpline

**0800 027 1234**





You can choose who you want to be friends with.

You can choose if you want to have a boyfriend or girlfriend.



It is your right to choose your own partner.

In Scotland, everyone has the right to choose who they marry.



No-one should be made to marry someone if they don't want to.

This is wrong.



If this is happening to you it is not your fault.



### **What is a Forced marriage?**

A marriage is forced when one or both people do not, or cannot, agree to get married.



This is not the same as an Arranged marriage where families help to choose a partner for their son or daughter and they both **want** to get married.

Arranged marriages are a part of everyday life in Scotland for many communities.



But being **forced** to marry is wrong.



Do not let a family member or partner shout at you or threaten you.



Do not let anyone hit you or hurt you, to force you into marriage.

This is wrong.



You can get help to decide what you want to do.



New laws in Scotland can help people who are being forced to get married.

You can take out a Forced Marriage Protection Order.

This stops anybody from forcing you to get married when you do not want to.



### **What to do next**

If you are being forced into a marriage, you might feel trapped and on your own.



You might feel confused or scared.

You might feel that there is nothing you can do.

Do not be afraid to speak out and get help.



Someone is there to help you.



## How to get help:

If you would like to talk to someone for help and advice phone the Forced Marriage Helpline on:

**0800 027 1234**



It does not cost anything to call.

You can phone at any time.

You do not need to tell them your name if you do not want to.



Helpline staff will:

- Listen to you and take you seriously



- Keep your information private



- Tell you about other organisations who can give you help and support, if that is what you want.



There is another phone line if you are a man looking for advice about forced marriage. The number is:

**0808 801 0327**

You can also email: [info@mensadviceline.org.uk](mailto:info@mensadviceline.org.uk)



If you're not quite ready to speak to someone on the phone, or you would find it difficult to phone, you can find information online at: [yourrightscotland.org](http://yourrightscotland.org)