**Is Illegal in the UK**

**As the Easter school holidays approach and travel restrictions are lifted, there is a risk of children being taken abroad, and being forced to marry.**

**We need to stay alert to Signs of children and young people being in potential danger of Forced Marriage.**

**It is important to act quickly, without alerting family members or friends who may be part of the plans.**

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* **Forced marriage may involve the child being taken out of the country (trafficked) for the ceremony,**
* **is likely to involve non-consensual and/or underage sex, and refusal to go through with a**
* **Forced marriage has sometimes been linked to so-called 'honour killing'.**

Watch video on Forced Marriage <https://youtu.be/IlbQtrAJjqo>

**Forced Marriage Protection Order (FMPO**) - is designed to protect the person being forced to marry/ or someone who is being threatened into Forced Marriage.

* The evidential threshold to obtain an urgent forced marriage protection order (FMPO) is not high.
* You can get an emergency order without the parents you are making the order against being involved or knowing.
* The order can protect according to individual circumstances: such as:
* To prevent a forced marriage from taking place.
* Can require the handover of passports.
* To stop intimidation and violence.
* And to stop a young person being taken abroad.

It is possible to apply for a FMPO after a young person has left, but it is much more difficult to enforce the order, plus the marriage may have already occurred.

If you suspect a young person may be in danger, you should alert your manager and contact a member of the legal safeguarding team for urgent advice and assistance.

Email duty lawyer at Legal.SocialCare@towerhamlets.gov.uk or call 0207 364 4556.

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**Potential Signs of Forced Marriage :**

* Child may feel worried or anxious about an upcoming holiday. They may even disclose about upcoming forced marriage.
* Children can be restricted of age appropriate opportunities and experiences that are available to their peers
* Child may show a drop in performance at school, and frequent absenteeism from school
* Parent may be controlling of the child’s movements and social interactions at school and out of school.
* Child may be self-harming, and have feelings of depression, attempted suicide or social isolation.
* Child may also be showing signs of eating disorders or engaging in substance abuse.

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**Some useful resources**

[Video on Forced Marriage](https://youtu.be/IlbQtrAJjqo) - YouTube Video by Charity called, Karma Nirvana

[Government Guidance Forced Marriage Unit/resources](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/forced-marriage#forced-marriage-unit)

[Research in Practice Resources on Forced Marriage for frontline practitioners](https://www.researchinpractice.org.uk/media/2345/rip_frontline_briefing_forced_marriage_web_aug19-1.pdf)

[Apply for a Forced marriage protection order](https://www.gov.uk/apply-forced-marriage-protection-order)

[One Chance Savera](https://www.saverauk.co.uk/information-and-advice/resources/1-chance-rule/) : Information and advice on honour based violence and harmful practices.

[Guidance for local authorities on applying for forced marriage protection orders and other agencisuk/government/publications/handling-cases-of-forced-marriage-multi-agency-practice-guidelines-english](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/handling-cases-of-forced-marriage-multi-agency-practice-guidelines-english)