

# EU FEM ROADMAP

EU Roadmap on Forced/Early  
Marriage (FEM) Referral Pathway  
for Frontline Professionals



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# EU Roadmap on Forced/Early Marriage (FEM) Referral Pathway for Frontline Professionals

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# 1. Introduction

**F**orced and early marriage (FEM), **contracted without the free and valid consent of one or both partners or before the age of 18**, is internationally acknowledged as a violation of human rights and as a form of gender-based violence<sup>1</sup>. It is a multi-faceted social-cultural harmful practice that adversely impacts the personal development and future opportunities, health and wellbeing of children, with detrimental consequences on children, women, men, families, communities and nations<sup>2</sup>. Forced marriage constitutes a serious breach of human rights by stripping the victims of their personal liberty, right to choose whether, when and whom to marry and often violates the right to education and profession. Thus it consequently stands in direct opposition to the fundamental principles and essential core values of the European Union (EU), particularly gender equality and protection of the rights of the child. The EU has addressed the issue of forced marriage directly or indirectly in different legislations, such as the 2012 Victims' Directive which lists forced marriage as a form of gender violence, the 2011 Qualification Directive, which deals with the rights and duties of persons who have been victimized through gender violence, and the 2003 Family Reunification Directive that contains counter-measures to the danger of enabling forced marriage through transnational reunification. Article 63.3 of the Treaty establishing the European Community constitutes the appropriate legal basis for EU action.

There is a common misconception that FEM is confined to certain religious groups and cultures, however this is not the case. The practice is not confined to one culture or religious group and can happen regardless of ethnicity, culture, religion, disability, age, gender and sexuality. Research in EU Member States have shown that FEM predominantly occurs abroad, the majority of the victims are girls of different cultural and national backgrounds and the perpetrators are usually parents or family members with maltreatment in the family a key risk factor<sup>3,4</sup>.

*"I think the most important thing for agencies is good safeguarding. Not to think about it, not to investigate, but to act. To take what someone is saying at face value. If they say they think this is going to happen, they are a better judge than you are. If you see something, that makes you uncomfortable, don't worry about being accused of being racist or not understanding culture, don't worry about offending someone because you saw a problem where there wasn't one, you flag it up and let it be investigated and if there is not a problem somebody will be offended, but if there was a problem somebody will be saved."* — Interview with UK Expert on FEM

## 1.1 Purpose of the EU FEM Roadmap

The purpose of the EU FEM Roadmap is to provide frontline professionals with a guidance document to assist in the protection and support of (potential) victims of FEM. Frontline professionals such as service providers working in migration centers, women's/crisis shelters, health and social services, magistrate offices and educational organisations can use this Roadmap to strengthen the multisectoral response to FEM by:

- ensuring and/or increasing victim safety at all stages of support;
- ensuring quality and consistency of service provision;
- guaranteeing the confidentiality of the services provided to FEM (potential) victims;
- facilitating effective referral for FEM victims to other service providers; and
- linking with other resources available for victims of violence.

The Roadmap includes a 7-step referral pathway for all frontline professionals, and then provides specific guidance for school/educational providers, child protection services, health professionals, criminal justice (police and justice) professionals and magistrates of civil marriage services.

1 United Nations General Assembly, Resolution 69/L.23 on 'Child, Early and Forced Marriage', 17 November 2014. [http://www.un.org/ga/search/view\\_doc.asp?symbol=A/C.3/69/L.23/Rev.1](http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/C.3/69/L.23/Rev.1)

2 European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights. Addressing forced marriage in the EU: legal provisions and promising practices. 2014. Available: [http://fra.europa.eu/sites/default/files/fra-2014-forced-marriage-eu\\_en.pdf.pdf](http://fra.europa.eu/sites/default/files/fra-2014-forced-marriage-eu_en.pdf.pdf)

3 United Kingdom, Forced Marriage Unit (FMU). Multi-agency statutory guidance. 2010, p. 9.

4 European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA). Addressing forced marriage in the EU: legal provisions and promising practices, page 8. [http://fra.europa.eu/sites/default/files/fra-2014-forced-marriage-eu\\_en.pdf.pdf](http://fra.europa.eu/sites/default/files/fra-2014-forced-marriage-eu_en.pdf.pdf)

The EU FEM Roadmap has been created by frontline professionals specialized in providing support to victims of FEM as a guidance document that compliments existing national guidelines and standard operating procedures at the organizational level.

## 1.2 Why forced/early marriage exists and the consequences

If a family uses violence or coercion to make the son or daughter marry, that victim's consent has not been given freely and it is therefore considered a forced marriage; or one of the persons is under the age of legal consent, generally 18 years old. FEM, regardless of where it takes place in the EU, is fuelled by gender inequality and rooted in gender discrimination and harmful traditional practices. Driving factors include conflict, poverty, and social exclusion. It is not the parents' country of origin which is important, but rather the history of maltreatment in the family. A child with a mental disability may not have the ability to fully consent to marriage and parents may seek a person to marry their disabled child in order to act as a carer and assist the parents in the disabled child's care. Parents of a child who is lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender (LGBT) may seek a forced/early marriage to hide the sexual orientation of the child. Therefore, persons with disabilities or those who are LGBT are at increased risk of FEM. Other key motives are<sup>3</sup>:

- controlling unwanted sexuality (including perceived promiscuity, or being LGBT);
- controlling unwanted behaviour such as alcohol and drug use, wearing make-up or behaving in a 'westernised manner';
- preventing 'unsuitable' relationships, e.g. outside the ethnic, cultural, religious or caste group;
- protecting 'family honour';
- responding to peer group or family pressure;
- attempting to strengthen family links;
- achieving financial gain;
- ensuring that land, property and wealth remain within the family;
- protecting perceived cultural ideals;
- maintaining perceived religious ideals which are misguided;
- assisting claims for residence and citizenship in the United Kingdom;
- long-standing family commitments.

*"The key to effectively tackling and preventing forced marriage is to integrate a diverse range of activities and measures, such as support services, awareness raising, educational initiatives, training and campaigning. Prevention activities should address the different needs of victims in an accessible manner. They should take an inclusive approach to gender-based violence. Inter-agency cooperation is required to establish and operationalise referral mechanisms and processes. Finally, funding of preventive activities and of those supporting victims must be sustainable<sup>4</sup>."*

Victims of FEM are more prone to gender-based violence and social exclusion, leading to depression, and even suicide. Often an early or forced marriage leads to a forced sexual relationship, which may qualify as marital rape, punishable by law. Many victims are not allowed to attend school and are restricted in their movements and access to services (e.g. sexual and reproductive services). They may become pregnant early, placing the mother and child at risk. Yet the situation is different for male versus female victims and each situation is unique, with respect to family allegiance and respecting a family decision, versus the right to live one's life and control one's sexuality.

### 1.3 Statistics on forced/early marriage in Europe

In the EU there are very few statistics on FEM. The Home Office in Britain funds a Forced Marriage Unit which in 2015 assisted in 1,220 possible cases of forced marriage in Britain<sup>5</sup>. These figures do not reflect the full scale of the problem as many victims do not contact the authorities due to fear of potential consequences.

In 2012 a qualitative survey was performed in Saint-Denis, France that consisted of reviewing 28 cases of FEM<sup>6</sup>. The study found that all cases involved female victims, the majority were minors, 2/3 were not in school at the time and 2/3 were forced into marriage overseas; furthermore, all were victims of physical violence (compared to 23% in the general population) and all victims of psychological violence during their lifetime. Half of the cases were identified by an educational/school provider and in 60% of the cases the victim was at high risk (threatened with a forced marriage in that week, serious violence). For the majority of the cases a person outside of the family intervened on behalf of the victim.

Crime statistics only exist in Germany which documented 56 suspected cases of forced marriage in 2012 and only one conviction but police and judicial statistics show only the tip of the iceberg: a German study showed that in 2008, counselling centres in Germany were approached 3,443 times on the topic of forced marriage<sup>7</sup>.

When examining survey data, the Swedish National Board for Youth Affairs estimated that in 2011 there were 8,500 young people who were worried that they would not be allowed to choose whom they wanted to marry and a French survey conducted with migrants and their descendants in 2008 showed that 'non-consensual marriage' was experienced by 4% of immigrant women and 2% of daughters of immigrants<sup>7</sup>.

In summary, very few statistics are available, whether nationally or at the EU level to demonstrate the magnitude of the problem of FEM.

### 1.4 Top 10 myths about forced/early marriage<sup>8</sup>

Despite widespread condemnation of FEM, the practice persists in the EU and around the world, perpetuated by a toxic mix of poverty and patriarchal power structures. Its effects are devastating, yet the issue is often deeply misunderstood. Dispelling these misperceptions is one of the crucial first steps towards ending this harmful practice. Here are ten of the biggest myths about the practice, its causes and its consequences.

#### » MYTH 1: FORCED MARRIAGE IS RARE IN EUROPE.

The Forced Marriage Unit in Britain receives approximately 370 calls a month related to forced marriages and provides support to 1,200 cases a year. In Sweden 8,500 young people reported they were worried that they would not be allowed to choose whom they wanted to marry.

#### » MYTH 2: ONE HAS TO RESPECT THIS CULTURAL TRADITION.

Forced and early marriage is a crime and an abuse of human rights, a form of violence, and if the victim is under 18, child abuse.

#### » MYTH 3: IT ONLY HAPPENS TO GIRLS.

It is true that the vast majority of forced and early marriages involve girls. But boys can be married off, just as girls are. Global estimates from UNICEF suggest that about 18% of those married before age 18 are boys, while about 82% are girls.

5 Statistics on Forced Marriage 2015: <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/forced-marriage-unit-statistics-2015>

6 Gabriela Bravo. Enquête sur les mariages forcés et l'accompagnement des victimes en Seine-Saint-Denis Réalisée en Seine-Saint-Denis 2012. Observatoire des violences envers les femmes du Conseil général de Seine-Saint-Denis

7 European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA). Addressing forced marriage in the EU: legal provisions and promising practices, page 12. [http://fra.europa.eu/sites/default/files/fra-2014-forced-marriage-eu\\_en.pdf](http://fra.europa.eu/sites/default/files/fra-2014-forced-marriage-eu_en.pdf)

8 Adapted from UNFPA Top 10 myths about child marriage available online <http://www.unfpa.org/news/top-10-myths-about-child-marriage> and Frequently Asked Questions from the organisation Against Forced Marriages available online <http://againstforcedmarriages.org/forced-marriage/faqs>

**» MYTH 4: THE BEST PLACE FOR A GIRL IS WITH HER FAMILY AND THE BEST WAY TO SOLVE THE SITUATION IS TO USE FAMILY COUNSELLING, MEDIATION, ARBITRATION AND RECONCILIATION.**

In cases of forced marriage it is important that professionals do NOT initiate, encourage or facilitate family counselling, mediation, arbitration or reconciliation. There have been cases of individuals being murdered by their families during mediation. Mediation can also place the individual at risk of further emotional and physical abuse. Mediation can also place the individual at risk of further emotional and physical abuse. Any action undertaken should be in line with the legal frameworks and human rights treaties which require specific principles in place, including perpetrator accountability.

**» MYTH 5: ONLY MONSTERS WOULD ALLOW THEIR DAUGHTERS TO BE MARRIED EARLY OR FORCED INTO MARRIAGE.**

It can be hard to imagine why someone would choose to have their child married off. Parents often believe marriage will secure a daughter's safety and her future. Yet girls forced into marriage are at higher risk of depression, suicide attempts and domestic abuse. Culture, faith and tradition are not the cause of forced marriages. They are the excuses for it.

**» MYTH 6: THIS IS REALLY A FAMILY MATTER, A CULTURAL MATTER.**

The consequences of forced and early marriage don't stay in the family. They affect whole societies and countries. The victims are more likely to become pregnant before their bodies are mature, increasing the risks of maternal and newborn death. They are also much more likely to drop out of school and to be victims of domestic violence. It is a violation of human rights.

**» MYTH 7: THESE GIRLS MUST BE COMPLETELY HELPLESS.**

Actually, girls can play a huge role in ending forced and early marriage – when they know their rights and have access to the right information and opportunities. These include their right to dignity, their right to education and health, their right to live free of abuse and coercion, and their right to choose, as adults, whether and whom to marry. Access to key information and services, including comprehensive sexuality education and life skills training is imperative. When people begin to see healthy, educated, safe and unmarried adolescent girls as the new normal, it can change perceptions and expectations about forced and early marriage.

**» MYTH 8: ONLY HARSH PENALTIES CAN END THIS PRACTICE.**

Most countries have already enacted strong laws against child marriage. In France and Austria, the maximum penalty in a criminal court for a forced marriage offence is five years imprisonment. While it is true that these laws need better enforcement, laws alone cannot end forced/early marriage. There needs to be zero tolerance of FEM in the community and awareness-raising measures to challenge and change gender stereotypes which are the root cause of gender discrimination.

**» MYTH 9: THE ISSUE OF FORCED AND EARLY MARRIAGE DOESN'T AFFECT ME.**

When the potential of a third of all girls is undermined, everyone is affected. The loss of their collective potential is immeasurably huge, and it touches every economy and workforce in the world. Upholding human rights is a responsibility of each and every one of us as citizen.

**» MYTH 10: NOT AGREEING TO THE MARRIAGE IS GOING AGAINST RELIGION.**

All mainstream religions believe that a person has the right to choose to marry. Yet families or communities might use a religious argument to try to force a son or daughter into agreeing to a marriage. The act of forcing someone to marry is against the practices and teachings of Islam as well as other religions. Therefore, the issue of forced/early marriage is not an issue of religion, but a cultural practice that violates human rights.

Forced or early marriage is culturally, ethically, morally, religiously and legally wrong.



## 1.5 Union-wide challenges and cross-border issues around forced/early marriage

Forced marriage is a **CRIME** as it is an abuse of human rights, a form of violence, and if the victim is under 18, child abuse.

The 2011 Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence, also known as the Istanbul Convention, is the core European document in this regard, which considers forced marriage a serious form of violence to which women and girls are exposed (see preamble). According to its Article 37, state parties are under a duty to criminalise “the intentional conduct of forcing an adult or a child to enter into a marriage”. The need for an EU-wide roadmap that is sensitive to national differences is demonstrated by the fact that while all of the Council of Europe Member States have ratified at least two international conventions on forced marriage, only 12 EU Member States have established forced marriage as a criminal offence.<sup>9</sup> Furthermore, differing national definitions and responses are used. Therefore, it is essential to prepare an EU Roadmap that allows for national flexibility but facilitates and optimises the work of frontline professionals addressing the problem. To date France and the United Kingdom are the only Member States that specifically address FEM in their current national action plan; France '5ieme plan de mobilisation et de lutte contre les violences (2017-2019)' and United Kingdom 'Ending Violence against Women and Girls: Strategy 2016-2020'<sup>10</sup>.

- Forced/early marriage should be criminalised in every EU Member State and the issue addressed at the policy level, for example as part of a national violence prevention action plan
- Prevention campaigns and awareness raising at different levels are needed to challenge FEM myths, promote rights of victims and gender equality and ensure availability of services to victims
- Long-term supported accomodation is needed focusing on the specialised needs of young victims, which differ from those of women with families in shelters

In light of increased mobility and migration within the EU, the issue of FEM has become a pressing issue that calls for more attention. Specifically, victim assistance needs to be improved using a child rights framework and a gender- and cultural-sensitive approach to respond and refer victims and potential victims in a harmonised manner throughout the EU.

For more information about legal provisions on FEM in the EU please read the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights report: Addressing forced marriage in the EU: legal provisions and promising practices. 2014<sup>11</sup>.

9 Psaila et al. Forced marriage from a gender perspective. Directorate General for Internal Policies. European Parliament. 2016. [http://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/STUD/2016/556926/IPOL\\_STU%282016%29556926\\_EN.pdf](http://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/STUD/2016/556926/IPOL_STU%282016%29556926_EN.pdf)

10 <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/strategy-to-end-violence-against-women-and-girls-2016-to-2020>

11 Available online: <http://fra.europa.eu/en/publication/2014/addressing-forced-marriage-eu-legal-provisions-and-promising-practices>



## ■ CASE STUDY 1 – Nisha

**F**ifteen-year old girl Nisha (pseudonym) was taken back to Bangladeshi on the pretext that the family was going on a holiday. Whilst in Bangladesh she was forced to get married by her parents. She didn't know what was going on, and was instructed what to say during the marriage ceremony. She remained in Bangladesh for several months, but after pleading with her parents she was allowed to come back to the UK to complete her education. Nisha was very unhappy about the marriage and wanted out, but there was nobody to turn to.

When she turned 17 she was advised by her father to get a job to raise money so that her husband could come and join her. Although Nisha was not happy about the marriage she worked really hard to raise money for her husband to travel to the UK; she bought a house and brought him over. She felt duty bound to do what was pleasing to her parents so as not to bring shame on the family. When the husband arrived, in the UK the marriage was formalised through a solicitor with permission from her parents, which Nisha did not object to.

The husband was very abusive towards Nisha, and since she was already unhappy about the marriage she wanted a divorce. She sought support from a victim support organisation that helped her to approach an Imam (religious cleric) for assistance. The Imam reassured Nisha that the marriage was not valid because the consent was ill-gotten. He gave her the Islamic/religious divorce immediately.

After the Islamic divorce Nisha was supported by the victim support organisation to seek a family solicitor who would be able to assist her in obtaining a legal divorce. Nisha was finally able to obtain a divorce and get her freedom back.

## 2. EU Roadmap on Forced/Early Marriage Referral Pathway for Frontline Professionals

### 2.1 Key principles in supporting victims of forced/early marriage

All frontline professionals who may come into contact with victims of FEM have to be aware of the “one chance” rule. That is, a professional may only have one chance to speak to a potential victim and provide specialised assistance. This means that all professionals working need to be aware of the potential warning signs or indicators (see Chart 1 Potential warning signs or indicators of FEM on page 12).

It is common for families to try using emotional blackmail, guilt and threats to force someone into FEM so it is important to remind the victim that it is not her/his fault. The conflict of loyalty to the family is one of the main barriers facing victims of FEM as they are torn between their needs and the family obligations. Therefore, most victims will approach a professional for other signs or symptoms of distress.

*“I think I only dared to take the step (to break free), because I really went to a clinic, otherwise I wouldn't have risked the step.” — Interview with a victim of FEM*

The victim may fear or is threatened with being disowned by the family and needs reassurance that it is true that young people who refuse a marriage can sometimes be disowned by their families and have to leave; that the first few months are usually the hardest, but there are many organizations which can help by providing emotional support, employment training and financial assistance. If the victim is already in a forced marriage, inform her/him that it is still possible to receive assistance; there is an anonymous helpline or it is possible to seek assistance face-to-face. In both cases, victims need reassurance that the assistance will be totally confidential so that the victim can receive a safe intervention without the family or partner's knowledge.

Frontline professionals have a responsibility to improve access for victims of FEM to specialised support services and effective reporting mechanisms should be in place in order to encourage victims of FEM to report the offence. These mechanisms should prevent further stigmatisation and discrimination.

The following principles of the ‘Essential Services Package for Women and Girls Subject to Violence Core Elements and Quality Guidelines’<sup>12</sup> are also applicable to the delivery of services for FEM victims:

- ✓ A rights-based approach
- ✓ Advancing gender equality and women's empowerment
- ✓ Culturally and age appropriate and sensitive
- ✓ Victim/survivor centred approach
- ✓ Safety is paramount
- ✓ Perpetrator accountability

### 2.2 Multisectoral response to forced/early marriage

Victims and potential victims of FEM have multiple and complex needs that include medical care, safe accommodation, psychosocial counselling, police protection and/or legal advice. Therefore, an effective response to assist victims requires a comprehensive set of services; as it is not always available and possible to arrange all services in one place, a multi-sectoral response that coordinates the services by all relevant service providers helps to ensure

<sup>12</sup> Essential Services Package for Women and Girls Subject to Violence Core Elements and Quality Guidelines. Available at <http://www.unfpa.org/publications/essential-services-package-women-and-girls-subject-violence>

the availability of comprehensive support for victims<sup>13</sup>. In this context a multi-sectoral response refers to a holistic and coordinated approach aimed at harmonising programmes and actions developed and implemented by a variety of organisations to protect and assist victims of FEM.

An effective multi-sectoral response is based on the implementation of 6 core activities<sup>14</sup>:

1. Intervention/services
2. Reporting and referral system
3. Training programmes
4. Documentation, reporting, transmitting and data analysis systems
5. Prevention and awareness raising activities
6. Coordination

For more information about each of these activities, please read 'Multi-sectoral response to gender-based violence: an effective and coordinated way to protect and empower GBV victims/survivors'<sup>13</sup>.

A multi-sectoral response to FEM and to gender-based violence in general leads to increased level safety and support for victims and survivors through an effective, immediate and consistent network of services.

### ■ CASE STUDY 2 – Forced marriage from the perspective of a male victim

This is the case of a 19-year-old boy with an Afghan background. The boy came to an organisation with expertise in cases of forced/early marriage for female victims only—an exception was made as he came with his Austrian girlfriend. His parents were very traditional and didn't allow him any kind of relationship before marriage, let alone with a girl not from Afghanistan. Once he tried to introduce his Austrian girlfriend to his family, the topic of his marriage became much more present and his parents started introducing him to potential brides. He repeatedly refused but his family did not stop and kept building up the pressure. When the young man came to our office, he was desperate and didn't know whether to give in to his parent's demands or not.

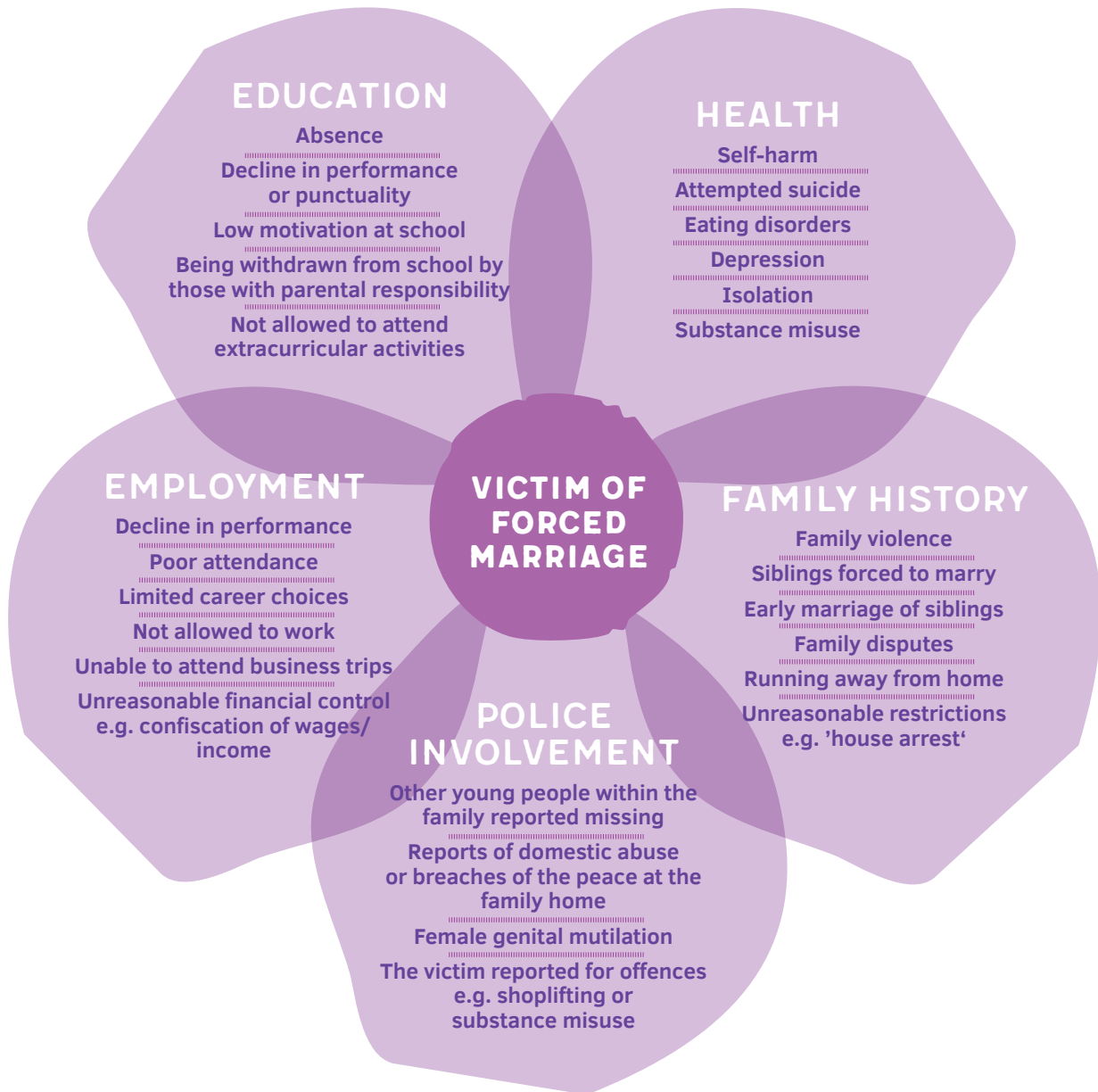
We explained to him that such a marriage should be taken seriously because it is a commitment for life. If he didn't want to marry that woman, then he shouldn't push himself into something that wouldn't make anyone happy, neither him nor the future wife. The difficulty with dealing with male cases is that violence isn't always that obvious. The parents didn't beat the young man or threaten to kill him, but they put him under immense pressure and repeatedly threatened to cast him out of the family, should he not consent to the marriage. This psychological terror was unbearable for the young man because he loved his family and didn't want to disappoint them. After a few months of support from frontline professionals, the young man decided to leave his family home and move in with his girlfriend. At that moment the parents cut off all contact to him and forbid other family members any communication with him. It was not an easy step for the young man to take but in this case, he felt it was the only choice he could make. His choice not only led to an isolation from his family but from many other members of the community.

Male cases of forced marriage are not often taken seriously. Some people don't even know that they exist and in some EU countries there is nowhere for boys and young men to go to seek advice if faced with forced marriage. This is a problem because it does not reflect the reality in our society. Many boys are put under a lot of pressure to marry a "chosen" bride and do not fight against it, because they feel that it is their duty to obey. As the case above shows, the consequences for male victims have a heavy impact on their social life and are not just empty threats. In addition, these marriages are built on an obligation rather than on a healthy, romantic relationship. And hence these marriages are often filled with domestic violence and subtle aggressions. Enlightening young men and boys in their rights to choose whom to marry and to live the life they wish, is an important step in preventing forced and early marriage because we tend to forget that there is not only a bride but also a groom and therefore two sides that we should be dealing and working with.

13 UNFPA. Towards a Multi-sectoral response to Gender-Based Violence. UNFPA Regional Office for Eastern Europe and Central Asia (UNFPA EECA RO), 2015.

14 UNFPA EECA RO and East European Institute for Reproductive Health. Multi-sectoral response to gender-based violence: an effective and coordinated way to protect and empower GBV victims/survivors. UNFPA EECA RO, 2015. Available at <http://eeca.unfpa.org/publications/multi-sectoral-response-gbv>

**Chart 1: Potential warning signs or indicators of forced/early marriage**<sup>15</sup>

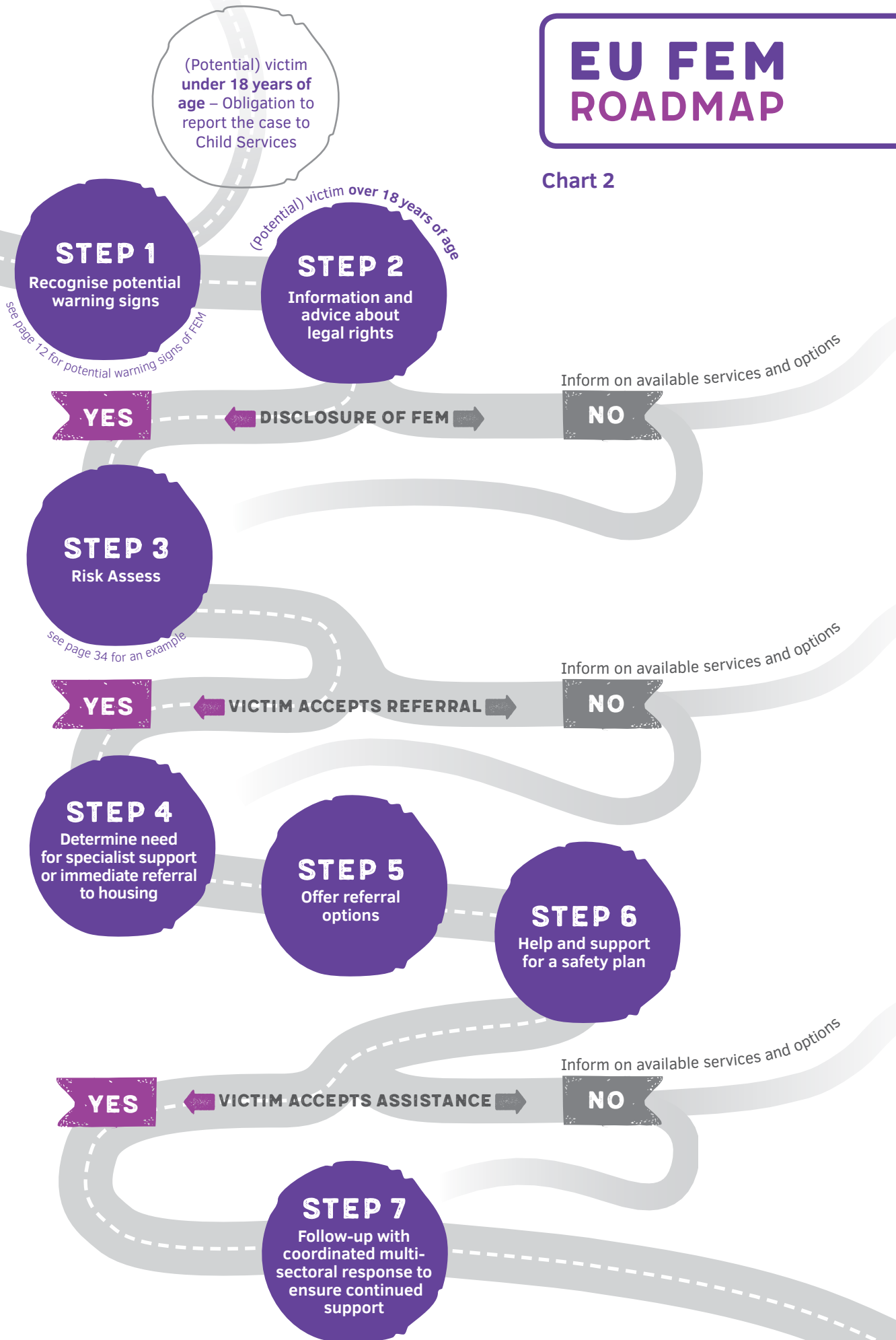


The EU Forced/Early Marriage (FEM) Roadmap on page 13 displays the 7-step process that each frontline professional performs when confronted with a potential case of FEM.

<sup>15</sup> HM Government. Right to Choose. Multi-agency statutory guidance for dealing with forced marriage. June 2014.

# EU FEM ROADMAP

Chart 2



## STEP 1 Recognise potential warning signs

Most young people refrain from seeking out professional help out of family loyalty and they do not want to have to choose between their parents and their right to choose who they will marry. For those who do reach out, victim support professionals such as social workers who work in women's shelters, violence prevention centers, etc. find themselves confronted with victims or potential victims of FEM who are often subjected to other forms of violence and therefore might seek help for these problems. See Chart 1 on page 12 for potential warning signs and indicators.

- If the victim is under 18, a frontline professional is obligated to refer to Child Services and all measures put in place to safeguard the child
- If the victim is over 18, continue to the next step

## STEP 2 Information and advice about legal rights

The frontline professional should aim for a personal conversation with the potential victim, taking the following steps into account:

- Speak with the victim in a secure/private place where the conversation cannot be overheard; if an interpreter is needed, take steps to ensure that the interpreter is not connected with the individual or community
- Listen to the victim's complete story; take it seriously
- Reassure the victim that confidentiality (i.e. not contacting the family) is priority
- Do not contact or attempt any mediation/reconciliation with family members as this might escalate the situation
- Make a note of all the information available at the time, including a photograph and description of the victim
- Identify any potential criminal offences (e.g. family violence) and refer to the police services;
- Record any current contacts with other professionals, health, social services, etc.
- Provide information to the victim about their rights and choices and respect their wishes when possible, remembering that in certain instances information may be shared without consent if victim in danger
- Obtain informed consent prior to initiating any referral
- Establish a safe way of maintaining contact with the victim in the future

## Disclosure of FEM

This can either happen through a report from the victim, a report from a confidant (such as neighbours, teachers, friends etc.), or the frontline professional detects a FEM case whilst working with the potential victim on other problems, since most victims of FEM are subjected to other forms of violence and therefore might seek help for those problems.

### STEP 3 Risk assess

Listen and communicate with the (potential) victim in order to obtain a better picture of the situation and to gather as much information as possible, so that you can correctly assess the case. The following information should be gathered:

- Full contact details (name, address, phone number, email)
- Copies of important documents such as passport, birth certificate, registration of residency, residency permit
- Warn the victim of the risk in taking any family trips to the home/foreign country and that if the victim suspects and knows of any such plans, that she/he should inform you beforehand; the danger of being abducted/ taken away to parents' country of origin on pretext of a holiday and being forced into marriage should be made clear and all available address/phone numbers in the home country (also those of relatives, cousins and so on) should be noted; in case of abduction the Ministry of Foreign Affairs should be immediately contacted and will provide support if the victim is a citizen

### Determining the level of risk

Once the frontline professional has collected as much information as possible about the victim and the situation, professional judgement is needed in order to analyse the information gathered and determine the significance of risk and vulnerability factors in the overall presentation of the victim.

The greater the number of risk factors present, the greater the risk to the victim and the likelihood of risk factors re-occurring should also be considered.

### There are three levels of risk:

**Requires immediate protection:** the risk factors identified indicate further serious violence or forced marriage is imminent and immediate action is required to prevent this from occurring, for example a protection order or prohibition to leave the country ordered by a judge

**Elevated risk:** there are a number of significant risk factors present that are likely to continue, indicating the need to initiate risk management processes that include safety planning

**At risk:** some risk factors are present but structures are already in place to manage the risk or the risk can be managed through advocacy, victim support and referral



**Risk of abduction, being forced to go overseas<sup>16</sup>**

There have been cases where families take their child away under the guise of a family holiday but instead they confiscate their passports on arrival and force them into a marriage.

**Victim support professionals may advise to:**

- Leave behind an address of where victim is staying, a mobile number on which to be contacted, a copy of passport, flight details, a copy of the plane ticket and a clear photograph
- Take a second mobile phone, topped up and kept hidden from the family
- Write down the address and telephone number of the embassy from the country of residence and keep it hidden and contact a member of the embassy for help if needed
- Inform the victim that because she/he is dependent on the parents or family, she/he will receive assistance to find a refuge, safe house, and advice

**STEP 4 Determine need for specialist support or immediate referral to shelter**

This is done based on the risk assessment described above combined with professional judgement.

**STEP 5 Offer referral options**

Inform the (potential) victim of options and services available and the types of assistance/support that could be provided by other specialists, especially the possibility of a crisis accommodation in case the situation at home should escalate.

- Provide the victim with names and telephone numbers of specialists to call if the level of risk changes
- Identify a safe accommodation for short/long term housing combined with professional support, preferably for young women only, i.e. not a women's shelter
- If the victim accepts the assistance, accompany the victim to the proposed services so that the victim is not alone

<sup>16</sup> Multi-Agency statutory guidance for dealing with forced marriage 2014, London, UK. Multi-agency practice guidelines: Handling cases of Forced Marriage 2014, London, UK. Both available online at: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/forced-marriage>

## STEP 6 Help and support to develop an individual safety plan

If you believe the victim to be in need of immediate protection and that a crime is likely to be committed, follow your organisation's standard operating procedure. In some Member States it is mandatory to inform the police and the victim's consent is not required in this instance, but you should make every effort to encourage the victim to increase personal safety and help the victim understand your role and responsibilities.

### Essential components of a safety plan:

- List contact numbers for a FEM specialist or violence organisation
- List emergency contact numbers
- Identify a safe place for the victim to go if in danger, and how to get there
- Identify a friend, family member who can assist in an emergency, and how to contact them
- Identify a way for the victim to get access to money in an emergency
- Identify a place to store valuables and important documents so that the victim can access them when needed
- Identify any barriers present to implementing the safety plan (for example having mobility or communication difficulties)

A safety plan needs to be tailored to the particular circumstances and needs of the victim and this can change over time.

## STEP 7 Follow-up with multi-sectoral support to ensure continued support.

As the problem of FEM is multifactorial, frontline professionals need to provide a multi-sectoral response to coordinate the protection and support for victims. The following sections provide specific guidance for professionals from each sector.

## 2.3 FEM Referral Pathway for School/ Educational Professionals

### Role of school/education professionals

Schools are the most critical spaces for awareness raising on availability of services and prevention of FEM.

Educational and school professionals should be trained and skilled at recognising potential warning signs of FEM related to the school environment specifically, such as:

- Persistent unexplained absence from school
- Not allowed to attend extra curricular activities
- Close supervision of child by family/carers
- Maltreatment of victim and/or siblings
- Student starts to act aggressively
- Parents of the students come without notice to verify if the student is at school
- Student starts to wear more traditional clothing and hints that she will not be able to continue school
- Withdrawal of student from school by those with parental responsibility
- Sudden announcement of engagement
- Student being prevented from attending higher education
- Request for extended leave or student not returning from an overseas visit
- Surveillance by siblings/cousins/extended family members at school
- Decline in behaviour, engagement, performance or punctuality, poor exam results – in particular for previously motivated student
- Decline in physical presentation or demeanour

If a number of signs are identified, the school professional should follow the EU FEM Roadmap (see page 13) and arrange to speak privately with the (potential) victim.

*“It happened like this...I spoke with a few friends from school about the situation, as we were having a girls’ conversation, and one teacher was also there and had the courage to tell the school doctor. Personally, I wouldn’t have had the strength to talk to another person, or to such a higher ranking person.”*

— Interview with a victim of FEM

### Schools can provide a supportive environment by:

- ✓ Performing information and education campaigns in the school on FEM
- ✓ Displaying relevant information e.g. details of child and women’s helplines and local and national support organisations who have expertise on FEM
- ✓ Ensuring that a private telephone is made available should students need to seek advice discreetly
- ✓ Educating teachers, lecturers and other staff about the issues surrounding FEM and the presenting symptoms – appropriate training should be included in continuing professional development
- ✓ Reminding educational staff to keep the case confidential and to not speak with the parents or other family members about the situation, as this may place the student at more risk
- ✓ Requesting a meeting with parents to discuss applications for extended leave of absence during term time (precise location, purpose, return date, student aware of the visit)

### ■ CASE STUDY 3 – Threat of an imminent forced marriage during a vacation in the home country

This is the case study of a 19-year-old girl that grew up in a family with a rigid traditional understanding of honour. She knows that she will be introduced to a potential suitor during the next vacation in their home country and fears that she will then be engaged and the forced marriage will be unstoppable as a consequence. She doesn't want to get married, especially to somebody she doesn't know. But she knows that it is a tradition in her family for the parents to choose a candidate and that she may not object. Running away is not an option as she is very close to her mother and little brother and fears that her mother would suffer the consequences of her disappearing.

At school the girl entrusts the teacher with her story, who suggests to involve a support service. In a first meeting with the support service there is an opportunity to get to know each other and the girl is informed on support options as well as risks associated with running away. One of the biggest risks is that the family might hear of the girl's plans to leave the family and thus abduct her earlier. The girl is torn: on the one side she is reluctant to walk out on her family, on the other side she absolutely doesn't want to get married. She wants to finish school and maybe attend university.

In this phase she receives personal and telephone counselling over the course of a few weeks. It is explained to her how her life outside her family would play out and the idea to leave the family ripens. Together with the frontline professionals she plans her escape. Money for a ticket is requested, a chaperone for the way to the central station and a pick-up service in the new town by the shelter is organised. She will leave during the course of the school year, so she can use the school time for an unnoticed escape.

On the day of the escape, the frontline professionals are in constant contact with the girl to support her. During the first days in the new shelter they regularly talk to her on the telephone until she has built a trusting relationship with the new support workers in the shelter. After six months the girl reaches out to the frontline professionals to report proudly that she will soon move into her own apartment in the new city and has settled in nicely in the new town. The fear of being found by her family is now reduced noticeably and she is focusing on her future career. The separation from her brother and mother are still hard on her.

## 2.4 FEM Referral Pathway for Child Protection Professionals

### Role of child services

A child protection professional is contacted about a (potential) case of forced/early marriage (FEM) via referral from a number of other professionals or organisations because the (potential) victim is under 18 years of age. It is the responsibility of the child protection professional to provide a child-centred approach in which services provided are based on a clear understanding of the needs and views of children and a child rights-based approach to ensure the rights of the child are safeguarded<sup>17</sup>. The Lundy model of child participation<sup>18</sup> highlights the four elements of child participation: space, voice, audience, influence. Keeping these in mind, the child protection professional has direct communication with the child and records the child's views and wishes. The professional assesses the child's health, intellectual or cognitive development, emotional well being and social development, as well as the behaviour of the parents/carers of the child and the environmental factors contributing towards difficulties the family and child are experiencing (e.g. financial issues, etc.).

The child is not pressed for information, led or cross-examined or given false assurances of absolute confidentiality in case of the professional's responsibility to contact police if a crime has been committed. In all assessment processes, the safety of the child is paramount at all times and in all circumstances.

#### The following questions may be asked to the child or young person regarding FEM:

- What's been going on?
- How long has this been going on for?
- Has this happened to any other member of your family?
- Can you tell me who is involved?
- Has someone ever hurt you physically?
- Has someone ever made you do anything sexual that felt bad or frightening?
- Can you tell me about the most recent time someone was abusive towards you?
- Are you afraid of what might happen next?
- Have you ever left before?
- What would you like to happen next?
- How do you want me to help?

After the assessment the professional will determine what action is to be taken as there is a duty to protect a child from any form of abuse, and therefore a professional has a greater scope of action in FEM cases dealing with victims under 18 years of age. If the professional determines a referral is needed without parental consent, for example to an anonymous crisis shelter, this may have to be authorised by a local authority and reasons documented, i.e. increases the risk of further serious harm to the child. If the child protection professional determines the child or young person is at high risk of violence or FEM, the professional follows the organisation's guidelines; these should include performing a risk assessment in order to determine the safety issues (see page 34, Table 2. Example of a Forced/Early Marriage Risk Assessment Protocol). The professional may take the victim away from the family home

<sup>17</sup> HM Government. Working Together to Safeguard Children: A guide to inter-agency working to safeguard and promote the welfare of children. March 2013. Available online: [https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/417669/Archived-Working\\_together\\_to\\_safeguard\\_children.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/417669/Archived-Working_together_to_safeguard_children.pdf)

<sup>18</sup> Lundy L. Voice is not enough: conceptualising Article 12 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child', British Educational Research Journal. 2007;33(6):927-942. Available at: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/01411920701657033>

and bring the victim to a safe and secret accommodation. Nevertheless, it is important that child and youth services respect the victim's wishes, even if underage, but keep in mind that one can also act against the victim's wishes if there is a high risk of danger. If the risk is elevated or at risk, the professional may come up with an individual safety plan in agreement with the child or young person and determine the next steps to take with the family.

It is the responsibility of a child protection professional to provide a coordinated and multi-sectoral follow-up with social services and other services. For more information on this please view 'Module 4 Social Services of the Essential Services Package for Women and Girls Subject to Violence'<sup>19</sup> and 'Psycho-social services provision, part of multi-sectoral response to GBV: Standard Operating Procedures'<sup>20</sup>.

#### **Child services can provide a supportive environment by:**

- Utilising child protection mediation (CPM), a collaborative problem solving process involving an impartial and neutral person who facilitates constructive negotiation and communication among parents, lawyers, child protection professionals, in an effort to reach a consensus regarding how to resolve issues of concern when children are being harmed<sup>21</sup>; the child's voice in the decision making process is essential and is typically presented either directly by the child or by an advocate for the child
- Determining if and when a meeting with the parents and a victim is necessary; the meeting should only take place in a safe location, supervised by a trained/specialist professional with an authorised accredited interpreter present (not from the same community), as parents will sometimes threaten the individual in their other language
- Informing the victim that unsupervised contact between the victim and the family may be extremely risky. Families may use the opportunity to subject the victim to extreme physical or mental duress or take them overseas regardless of any protective measures that may be in place
- Assisting the victim if there is fear or threat of abduction to force a marriage overseas

<sup>19</sup> Essential Services Package for Women and Girls Subject to Violence: Module 4 Social Services. Available at <http://www.unfpa.org/publications/essential-services-package-women-and-girls-subject-violence>

<sup>20</sup> Psycho-social services provision, part of multi-sectoral response to GBV: Standard Operating Procedures. 2015. Available at <http://eeca.unfpa.org/publications/multi-sectoral-response-gbv>

<sup>21</sup> Association of Family and Conciliation Courts. Guidelines for Child Protection Mediation. 2012. Available online: <https://www.afccnet.org/Portals/0/Guidelines%20for%20Child%20Protection%20Mediation.pdf>

#### ■ CASE STUDY 4 – Abduction for forced marriage overseas

This is the case of a 17-year-old girl of Egyptian background. After spending her summer holidays in Egypt, as her family does every year, her parents returned to Austria and left her behind. After some time, she was introduced to an Egyptian man whom she was to be engaged to. At first, she accepted the offer, because of the prospect of returning to Austria with him. As she slowly came to find out that this was all a lie, she started fighting against the planned wedding. She was repeatedly beaten and eventually the wedding took place. A few months after the wedding, she couldn't take it any longer and reached out for help.

She initially contacted an organisation with expertise in cases of forced and early marriage, using the organisation's online counselling platform. After receiving her email, the organisation contacted the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and informed them about the case of forced marriage. The main difficulty was determining her address, since she had no knowledge of where she actually lived and barely spoke the language (neither could she read nor write). This was the main information needed, so to be able to organize her trip back to Austria. The organisation did manage to pin down the address as she described her surroundings and was able to organize her trip to a safe transitional accommodation, where she awaited her exit permit so that she could fly back to Austria.

In such cases, especially when there was no contact with the girl before she was abducted, it is important to gather as much information about the girl as possible. Therefore, it is essential to find a way to communicate with the girl regularly. Many girls use the Internet, such as in this case, whilst other girls may use communication tools such as Whatsapp or Facebook. It doesn't matter how the contact is established, it is vital to find a way to maintain this communication. Furthermore, it is key to cooperate with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs as they are responsible for the wellbeing of their citizens and therefore have the required authority in foreign countries to authorise exit visas. This was one of the most important aspects of our work on this case, namely the good cooperation with the Ministry. Also important is the follow-up work that is included in this case, once the girl is brought back. Upon her arrival in Austria the girl was brought to our crisis shelter. She stayed there for a few months until she was ready to move to a long-term accommodation.



## 2.5 FEM Referral Pathway for Health Professionals

### Role of health professionals

Those under threat of forced/early marriage (FEM), or already in a forced marriage, present to health professionals in many different ways. Some victims, especially women, do not mention forced marriage but present with signs or symptoms, which, if recognised, may indicate to the health professional that they are in or under threat of one. They may have unexplained injuries, be depressed, anxious, self-harming or be involved in substance misuse. Some individuals attend for a completely different reason and mention in passing that there are “family problems”; and with careful questioning may disclose more.

To prevent this type of abuse it is imperative that health professionals are prepared to use these limited opportunities to openly discuss the issues around FEM. Therefore, health professionals should take a proactive role to establish whether FEM is an issue, during examination and only when the individual is alone, unaccompanied by partner, family or friends. If they require an interpreter, never use family members, friends or individuals who are from the individual’s community. Use an accredited interpreter and inform the victim of the interpreter’s name in case they know the person.

#### Questioning may include for those already in a forced marriage:

- How is your relationship?
- Does your partner or family let you do what you want, when you want?
- Have you ever been afraid of your partner’s or a family member’s behaviour – are they verbally abusive?
- Do you ever feel unsafe at home?
- Has your spouse/partner or anyone else at home threatened you?

#### Depending on the response a health professional receives, they may go on to ask:

- Have you ever been hurt by your partner or anyone else at home – perhaps slapped, kicked or punched?
- Have you ever been forced to have sex when you didn’t want to?

→ Even if they do not disclose anything the first time FEM is raised, it will show them that you understand the issues and it may give them confidence to disclose in more detail at a later date.

If a health professional does elicit information that suggests an individual is facing FEM, the professional should use careful questioning to establish the full facts and carefully record all information gathered. Health professionals have to realise that if a disclosure is made that this may be the **one and only chance** of helping the patient. It is the responsibility of the health professional to provide a coordinated and multi-sectoral response with health services and other services. For more information on this please view Module 2 Health Services of the Essential Services Package for Women and Girls Subject to Violence<sup>22</sup> and ‘Health care services provision, part of multi -sectoral response to GBV: Standard Operating Procedures<sup>23</sup>.

Also, a follow-up session should be offered.

<sup>22</sup> Essential Services Package for Women and Girls Subject to Violence. Module 2 Health Services. Available at <http://www.unfpa.org/publications/essential-services-package-women-and-girls-subject-violence>

<sup>23</sup> Health care services provision, part of multi-sectoral response to GBV: Standard Operating Procedures. 2015. Available at <http://eeca.unfpa.org/publications/multi-sectoral-response-gbv>

**Health services can provide a supportive environment by:**

- Displaying relevant information e.g. details of free phone National Helplines, and specialised support providers
- Offering appointments during school lunchtimes
- Enabling young people to visit unaccompanied if they wish while already out of their home for other reasons which increase the opportunities they have to discuss or disclose any worries
- Circulating and displaying copies of leaflets and posters against FEM
- Educating health professionals about the issues surrounding forced marriage
- Including FEM within domestic abuse training for health professionals | The training should also include safety planning, risk assessment and risk management

*“I remember looking at the nurse and thinking, why doesn’t she ask more questions so that I tell her I am scared of living here? I didn’t know what to do, and I needed help. And I felt the nurse didn’t do much, I just felt if she had probed a bit more maybe I would have had an opportunity to speak out. I think now that a lot of people know that girls from certain backgrounds are at risk of forced marriage, they need to ask more questions, particularly if they can see that a young girl looks scared of something.” — Interview with a FEM survivor*

## 2.6 FEM Referral Pathway for Criminal Justice Professionals

### Role of criminal justice professionals

The criminal justice (police and justice) system plays a major role in combating forced/early marriage (FEM) in each Member State and abroad. Each component of the system, starting from the law enforcement (police) to the courts, should acknowledge the importance of their role and take on the responsibilities that come along with enforcing these laws. Failure to do so leads to a step backwards in the process of combating FEM.

If the police are contacted by the parents that their daughter or son are “suddenly missing” and file a missing persons report, the police have to perform an interview to elicit information about violence in the family or towards the son/daughter, which the parents are not likely to report. If the police find the son/daughter, it is important to reassure the victim and ask him/her without the family present the reasons for fleeing the family and to determine if it is a potential case of forced or early marriage. The young person’s location must remain confidential from the family until the case is fully investigated. There are cases of families issuing death threats against young persons. That is the reason why police and justice services have an obligation to place victims in anonymous and safe shelters if the victim is at high risk, as addresses of women’s shelters are known to the family members and do not provide safety for the victim.

#### Specific responsibilities for the criminal justice professionals include:

- If the victim of FEM is referred by another professional it is very important to avoid revictimization
- Do not belittle or insult the family or community of the victims, because this might increase existing conflicts of loyalty
- Ensure non discrimination based on ethnicity, religious, gender, sexual orientation, birth, disability etc.
- Check whether the victim or any family members have been reported missing
- Check for reports of domestic violence, breach of the peace at the family home, as well as other signs of maltreatment
- Collect full contact details (name, address, phone number, email, passport number, dual passports) if there is danger of abduction also address/phone numbers in home country and ensure this information is kept confidential
- Check records for any past information recorded (cases of domestic violence, threats, and so on) on family members including siblings
- Offer to inform the public prosecutor of a case of FEM if the victim is over 18 years of age and consents; if under 18 years of age then Child Services is responsible
- Offer to contact the Ministry of Foreign Affairs if the victim has legal status if there is danger that the victim might be taken abroad and forced into (early) marriage

It is the responsibility of a criminal justice professional to provide a coordinated and multi-sectoral response with police and justice services and other services. For more information on this please view Module 3 Justice and Policing Services of the Essential Services Package for Women and Girls Subject to Violence<sup>24</sup> and Police services provision, part of multi-sectoral response to GBV: Standard Operating Procedures<sup>25</sup>.

<sup>24</sup> Essential Services Package for Women and Girls Subject to Violence. Module 3 Justice and Policing Services. Available at <http://www.unfpa.org/publications/essential-services-package-women-and-girls-subject-violence>

<sup>25</sup> Police services provision, part of multi-sectoral response to GBV: Standard Operating Procedures. 2015. Available at <http://eeca.unfpa.org/publications/multi-sectoral-response-gbv>

**Criminal justice services can provide a supportive environment by:**

- Conducting interviews without the presence of any family or community members as to prevent any possible pressure on the victim
- Conducting the police interview with Child Services if the victim is a minor
- If the victim is female, female police officers and female interpreters are strongly recommended because many victims often do not tell their whole story to – or even in front of – male police officers/interpreters
- Utilising interpreters from outside the victim's community if the need to translate arises
- If the case goes to trial, providing the victim the option of giving evidence by video-conferencing or other options of interrogation that allow the victim to be physically absent from the courtroom to ensure that the victim agrees to testify and is able to tell the truth
- Provide legal and psychological support throughout the trial as these trials can be very overwhelming and exhausting for the victim; offer the victim assistance to participate in a victim assistance program

## 2.7 FEM Referral Pathway for Magistrates of Civil Marriage Services

### Role of magistrates

The role of magistrates who perform the marriage civil ceremonies is absolutely essential in the identification of FEM. This is because a civil marriage must proceed through several stages, giving the opportunity to act. It is the responsibility of the administrative personnel to ensure that each person consents to the marriage, freely and fully informed. To improve the protection and support of victims of FEM, city hall personnel have to become active to train and do awareness raising for all actors involved; this includes magistrates who perform the civil ceremony and the administrative personnel who prepare the documents prior to the ceremony.

Prior to the civil ceremony, a magistrate should determine if there is an accumulation of signs specific to the civil ceremony:

- Intermediaries such as parents of the couple come to city hall instead of the couple
- It is not possible to meet the young girl
- Large difference in age
- Addresses or the witnesses are known to social services (for example when the witnesses are the same from marriage to marriage)
- Country of residence is different for the couple
- Medical certificates are from the same doctors from marriage to marriage

#### Are any of the following issues present:

- Is either party showing signs of emotional distress or physical harm?
- Is the bride or groom accompanied by family or community members when filing the marriage?
- When filing for the marriage, is one party doing all the talking or showing reluctance to speak?
- Is one party unable to provide facts about the other person, such as date of birth, occupation, address?

**One warning sign is not enough.** But with an accumulation of signs, administrative personnel or the magistrate may stop the proceedings and request separate interviews and the presence of an official interpreter if necessary. If the individual is worried for her/his safety, the civil servant shall not allow the individual to leave alone with family or community members and do not allow them to leave the premises alone or with their family. The civil servant should not attempt to mediate between parties or between an individual and their family as this may place the victim at risk of harm. And if an interpreter is needed, the interpreter should be from outside the victim's community.

#### In case of an accumulation of signs, the following questions may be asked to the couple:

- Is the family very present in your lives?
- Does the family speak the same language as you?
- Does the girl know the history of the future husband, his life story, his life experiences, what does she know about him?
- What projects have they planned as a couple?
- Where did they meet? It may be that the girl barely knows him, and that they each have a very different version of the other.

→ All civil servants need to have the name and number of a specialised professional who can assist if a potential forced or early marriage case is identified.

**Civil marriage services can provide a supportive environment by:**

- Ensuring that no stigmatisation should occur when dealing with persons from specific countries or cultures as this would be against the Human Rights Convention to target persons because of religious or cultural backgrounds; it is equally not possible to oppose a marriage on the grounds of one individual not having legal status
- Ensuring non discrimination based on ethnicity, religious, gender, sexual orientation, birth, disability etc.
- Intervening before the civil ceremony, during the shared or individual interview and notify the federal prosecutor
- Intervening during the civil ceremony, by suspending the ceremony under certain conditions, and if necessary to notify the federal prosecutor
- Intervening after the marriage, to obtain a marriage annulment
- If consent provided by the victim, alerting a federal prosecutor of a « suspicion of a forced marriage » who will then start a police investigation through a specially trained police officer and decide whether to stop the marriage

### 3. Evaluation of a Forced/Early Marriage Referral Pathway for Frontline Professionals

In order to evaluate the usefulness of the Forced/Early Marriage Referral Pathway, consider documenting the following evaluation indicators through staff:

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1. How many cases of FEM did you have in the last 12 months?

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2. How many cases of FEM did you have in the last 12 months?  not at all  frequently  often

---

3. How satisfied were you with the Roadmap on a scale of 1 to 5 (1 not at all satisfied and 5 very satisfied)?

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4. How satisfied are you with the collaboration with other sectors involved in this multi-sectoral response to FEM (1 not at all satisfied and 5 very satisfied)?

---

5. Would you recommend the EU FEM Roadmap to other professionals confronted with (potential) cases?  highly recommend  somewhat recommend  do not recommend

---

6. What additional information should be included in the EU FEM Roadmap?

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#### Questions to consider as an organisation:

- Have staff in the organisation been made aware of the EU FEM Roadmap?
- Do staff feel they have the skills to recognise the potential warning signs of FEM?
- Do staff feel they have the skills to perform a FEM risk assessment?
- Are staff aware of the importance of not contacting the victim's parents or family members and not acting as a mediator between the victim and the parents?
- Are staff able to differentiate between breaking confidence (involving the child or young person's family without consent) and sharing information with consent with another appropriate professional to assist the child or young person to access support services?
- Do staff have the contact number of a professional who has expertise in FEM in case of questions or referral?
- Is there a designated staff member who is fully trained to an expert level on the topic of forced and early marriages and is able to provide advice and support to colleagues within the organisation?
- Are there sufficient anonymous shelters available where victims can not be found by parents or family members?
- Is there a working group or lead agency on FEM at national level in your country that coordinates all FEM activities?



## 4. Glossary of Principles and Terms

**Arranged marriage:** the families of both spouses take a leading role in arranging the marriage but the choice of whether or not to accept the arrangement still remains with the prospective partners.

**Consent:** when one person voluntarily agrees to the proposal or desires of another, freely given without violence, coercion, or threat, and valid with regards to legal marital age and psychosocial abilities. Coercion may include: threats of violence, being held against their will, emotional threats and other forms of coercion and harassment, such as not being allowed to go anywhere without being accompanied by someone.

**Early marriage:** also known as child marriage, the formal marriage or informal union in which one or both persons is under the age of legal consent, defined as 18 years of age<sup>26,27</sup>. But certain Member States allow marriage at 16 years of age with consent of the parents.

**FEM:** abbreviation for forced and early marriage.

**Forced marriage:** a marriage contracted without the free and valid consent of one or both partners, for example due to violence, coercion, threat, marital age and psychosocial disabilities<sup>28</sup>.

**Frontline professional:** service providers who come into contact with (potential) cases of FEM, such as professionals in migration centers, women's/crisis shelters, health and social services, magistrate offices and educational organisations and who have a clear mandate to protect and assist victims of FEM.

**Gender-sensitive approach:** Services provided need to demonstrate an approach which recognizes the gender dynamics, impacts and consequences of violence against women. Frontline professionals should take into account the needs of specific groups of victims, including those belonging to marginalized groups.

**Multi-sectoral response:** a holistic and coordinated approach aimed at harmonizing programmes and actions developed and implemented by a variety of organisations<sup>29</sup>.

**Non-discrimination:** Regardless of age, race, national origin, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity, disability, marital status, educational and socio-economic status, all victims/survivors are equal and shall be treated the same and have equal access to services. This implies that all FEM (potential) victims have equal and full access to services and receive support at the same level of quality.

**Referral:** how frontline professionals and institutions communicate and work together to provide a victim with comprehensive support. The goal is to address the immediate and multiple needs of the victim in a manner that will ensure the safest and most effective way of reporting and in accordance with the victim's preferences for care and treatment. Also, referral is about a coordinated approach to service delivery. A referral system functions effectively when information/details are systematised and shared between all service providers, while guaranteeing confidentiality and privacy for the victim.

**Referral pathway:** a comprehensive institutional framework that connects organisations into a network of cooperation to ensure the protection and assistance of survivors using efficient lines of communication and clearly outlined referral procedures.

26 Council of Europe, Forced Marriages in Council of Europe Member States, 2005. [http://www.coe.int/T/E/Human\\_Rights/Equality/PDF\\_CDE-G%282005%291\\_E.pdf](http://www.coe.int/T/E/Human_Rights/Equality/PDF_CDE-G%282005%291_E.pdf)

27 Interagency Working Group on Sexual Exploitation of Children. Terminology Guidelines for the protection of children from sexual exploitation and sexual abuse. 2016. Available at: [http://srsg.violenceagainstchildren.org/sites/default/files/documents/docs/Terminology%20guidelines\\_ENG.pdf](http://srsg.violenceagainstchildren.org/sites/default/files/documents/docs/Terminology%20guidelines_ENG.pdf)

28 G. Robbers. Forced marriages and honour killing. Directorate General for Internal Policies. 2008. [http://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/etudes/join/2008/408334/IPOL-LIBE\\_ET%282008%29408334\\_EN.pdf](http://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/etudes/join/2008/408334/IPOL-LIBE_ET%282008%29408334_EN.pdf)

29 UNFPA. Towards a Multi-sectoral response to Gender-Based Violence. UNFPA Regional Office for Eastern Europe and Central Asia (UNFPA EECA RO), 2015.

**Risk assessment:** decision-making process through one determines the best course of action by estimating, identifying, qualifying, or quantifying risk<sup>30</sup>.

**Roadmap:** tool, plan to assist in achieving something, in this case a tool for frontline professionals to provide a referral pathway for victims of FEM within a multi-sectoral response.

**Victim centred approach:** All service providers engaged in multi-sectoral response to FEM prioritise the rights, needs and wishes of the victim.

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<sup>30</sup> Nicholls, T.L., S.L. Desmarais, K.S. Douglas, and P.R. Kropp. 2006. Violence risk assessments with perpetrators of intimate partner abuse. In *Family Interventions in domestic violence: A handbook of gender-inclusive theory and treatment*, eds. J. Hamel and T. Nicholls, 276. New York: Springer Publishing Company.

## 5. Appendices

### Appendix 1: EU FEM Response, the 4 R's: Recognise – Risk Assess – Respond – Refer

Forced/Early Marriage	
<b>RECOGNISE</b>	<b>POTENTIAL INDICATORS</b>
	Siblings forced to marriage
	Running away
	Appears anxious, depressed, withdrawn
	Persistent school absence
	Sudden engagement announcement
	Sudden travel announcement
	Surveillance by family members
	Negative change in school/work performance
	Prevented from further education
	Sees health professional for unspecific symptoms
	Self Harm/Attempted suicide
	Early/unwanted pregnancy
	Female Genital Mutilation
	Family violence
Other siblings reported missing	
Threats to kill/Attempts to kill	
<b>RISK ASSESS</b> (see Appendix 2 for a FEM protocol example)	<b>PROFESSIONAL JUDGEMENT AND ASSESSMENT PROTOCOL</b>
	It is important that professionals are experienced in performing a risk assessment and otherwise refer to a specialist
	Professionals should NOT initiate, encourage or facilitate family counselling, mediation, arbitration or reconciliation. There have been cases of individuals being murdered by their families during mediation. Mediation can also place the individual at risk of further emotional and physical abuse.
	Develop and agree on a safety plan if needed
	Obtain a recent photograph and any other identifying documents such as a copy of the passport or passports if dual citizenships
	If necessary, record any injuries and arrange a medical examination
	Establish a way of contacting them discreetly in the future that will not put them at risk of harm
	Recognise the risk to other siblings in the household who might also be threatened with, or already in, a forced marriage
	Under no circumstances is it sufficient to protect a child or young person by removing the alleged perpetrator from the household as in the majority of cases the extended family are also involved
	Placing the child or young person with a family member or member of the same community may place the child at risk of significant harm from other family members or individuals acting on the family's behalf
	If the victim is under 18 years of age then the case must be reported to Child Services for safeguarding

Forced/Early Marriage	
<b>RESPOND</b>	<b>VICTIM-CENTRED APPROACH:</b>
	Victims are listened to and they are able to communicate their needs and wishes
	Victims are given accurate information about their rights and choices
	Victims' wishes are respected about the level of intervention they require
	Victims' choices are central to providing support
	Victims may require long term support
	<b>RIGHTS BASED APPROACH:</b>
	Analysis in accordance with principles of human rights and child rights
	Principle of 'Do No Harm' to protect victim from being exposed to further harm
	<b>ENSURE CONFIDENTIALITY:</b>
	Professionals have to be able to differentiate between breaking confidence (involving the child or young person's family without consent) and sharing information with consent with another appropriate professional to assist the child or young person to access support services.
	Speak to the child or young person in a secure and private place without friends or family present.
	The victim's confidence should be respected at all times and the professional will NOT approach family, friends or members of the community as this may place the individual at risk of harm.
	All records pertaining to individuals facing forced/early marriage should be kept secure to prevent unauthorised access by those within the broader community who may potentially pass on confidential information to a victim's family. Records should only be available to those directly dealing with the case and the victim's address is not given out.
If the victim is under 18 years of age the professional has an obligation to inform the victim at the start that the case must be reported to child protection services.	
Establish and agree an effective method of contacting the victim discreetly in the future, possibly using a codeword to confirm identity and text messages rather than phone calls; or get the number of a trustworthy friend or communicate through the school nurse.	
<b>REFER</b>	If you suspect a case of forced or early marriage, refer the victim, with their consent, to victim support services that are specialised in this field who will provide counseling and a range of support services through a multi-sectoral approach.
	<b>DO NOT:</b>
	Treat any information disclosed as a 'family issue' or dismiss out of hand the need for immediate protection.
	Decide that it is not your responsibility to follow-up the concern.
	Approach the parents or family as this may place the person in danger.
	Contact the family in advance of any enquiries by the police or child protection service.
	Share information outside information sharing protocols without the express consent of the person unless the victim is under 18 years of age, in which case Child Services have to be contacted.
	Attempt to be a mediator or encourage mediation, reconciliation, arbitration or family counselling.

## Appendix 2: Example of a Forced/Early Marriage Risk Assessment Protocol

Forced/Early Marriage Risk Assessment Protocol				
<b>CONFIDENTIAL</b>				
The purpose of this risk management plan is to fully consider all potential factors that may pose a threat or risk to the victim. This will enable the development of a comprehensive range of support measures to minimize the risk.				
Person completing the Risk Assessment				
Date				
Name of victim				
Age / Date of birth				
Nationality				
Country of Birth				
Languages spoken				
Current Address				
Interpreter needed (Y/N)				
Emergency contact				
Passport Number				
Birth country of mother/father				
Legal Status				
<b>1. INCIDENT RESULTING IN THREAT OR FORCED/EARLY MARRIAGE:</b>				
<b>2. ACCOMPANYING FACTORS:</b>	Yes	No	Comments	
Abuse / Violence	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Threats / Stalking	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Intention to remove victim to another country	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Self-harm/Suicidal tendency	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
<b>3. FAMILY CIRCUMSTANCES</b>				
<b>Immediate Family</b>				
Name	Address	DOB/Age	Relationship	Comments

Forced/Early Marriage Risk Assessment Protocol			
	Yes	No	Comments
Parents subjected to forced/early marriage?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Are other siblings at risk?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>4. PERSONAL CIRCUMSTANCES</b>			
Boyfriend	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Health issues	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Financial support	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>5. OTHER PROFESSIONALS INVOLVED</b>			
Name	Agency	Contact Details	Comments
<b>RISK ASSESSMENT SCORE:</b>	High	Elevated	At risk
Tick a box	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>ACTION TAKEN (E.G. INFORMATION PROVIDED, REFERRAL MADE, ETC.)</b>			
No.	Actions	Updates	Lead Agency
1.			
2.			
3...			

## Appendix 3: Country Resource Profiles

In order to help professionals who may become confronted with a case of forced/early marriage, it is important to make available a brief summary of all of the organisations in the country that have expertise in cases of FEM, or of organisations who offer specialised victim support services. Here are examples from 5 EU countries (Austria, France, Germany, Portugal, United Kingdom):

### Appendix 3.1: AUSTRIA FEM Country Resource Profile

#### Vienna

##### **Orient Express**

Beratungs-, Bildungs- und Kulturinitiative für Frauen  
Frauenservicestelle  
Schönngasse 15-17 / Top 2  
A-1020 Wien

#### Lower Austria

##### **Gewaltschutzzentrum NÖ**

Victim protection organisation for victims of domestic violence  
[www.gewaltschutzzentrum.at/noe](http://www.gewaltschutzzentrum.at/noe)

##### **Frauenberatung Wendepunkt**

Women and family counselling centre, also operate a shelter for women, victims of violence.  
[www.frauenberatung-wienerneustadt.at](http://www.frauenberatung-wienerneustadt.at)

#### Upper Austria

##### **Gewaltschutzzentrum OÖ**

[www.gewaltschutzzentrum.at/ooe](http://www.gewaltschutzzentrum.at/ooe)

#### Burgenland

##### **Gewaltschutzzentrum Burgenland**

[www.gewaltschutz.at](http://www.gewaltschutz.at)

#### Carinthia

##### **Gewaltschutzzentrum Kärnten**

[www.gsz-ktn.at](http://www.gsz-ktn.at)

#### Styria

##### **Frauenspezifische Beratungsstelle für Migrantinnen – DIVAN**

Offer a range of services for women with a migrant background  
[www.caritas-steiermark.at/hilfe-angebote/migrantinnen-fluechtlinge/beratung-betreuung/frauenspezifische-beratungsstelle-fuer-migrantinnen-divan/](http://www.caritas-steiermark.at/hilfe-angebote/migrantinnen-fluechtlinge/beratung-betreuung/frauenspezifische-beratungsstelle-fuer-migrantinnen-divan/)

#### Vorarlberg

##### **FEMAIL**

Platform for women  
[www.femail.at](http://www.femail.at)

#### Salzburg

##### **Make it- Büro f. Mädchenförderung**

Project for girls set up in the year 2000  
E-Mail: [teresa.lugstein@salzburg.gv.at](mailto:teresa.lugstein@salzburg.gv.at) or [make.it@salzburg.gv.at](mailto:make.it@salzburg.gv.at)

#### Tyrol

##### **Tiroler Frauenhaus f. misshandelte Frauen und Kinder**

Shelter for women  
<http://frauenhaus-tirol.at/>

##### **Autonome Österreichische Frauenhäuser**

Network of all women's shelters in Austria  
[www.aodef.at](http://www.aodef.at)

#### National Hotline:

**24- Hour Women's Hotline:** +43 1 71 71 9  
Emergency helpline for girls and women who are victims of violence.



## Appendix 3.2: FRANCE FEM Country Resource Profile

### Association voix de femmes

Tel. : 01 30 31 55 76

voixdefemmes.accueil@orange.fr

[www.association-voixdefemmes.fr](http://www.association-voixdefemmes.fr)

### Groupe pour l'abolition des mutilations sexuelles – GAMS

67, rue des Maraîchers - 75020 Paris

Tel. : 01 43 48 10 87

<http://pagesperso-orange.fr/associationgams>

### Voix d'elles rebelles

Association spécialisée sur l'accompagnement des  
victimes de mariages forcés

Place Lautréamont 93 200 Saint-Denis

Tel. : 01 48 22 93 29

[www.voixdelles.org](http://www.voixdelles.org)

### Réseau jeunes filles confrontées aux violences et aux ruptures familiales

Tel. : 06 75 23 08 19 - Ligne téléphonique : gérée par  
le Planning familial 34.

Mail : mariageforce@gmail.com

[www.mariageforce.fr](http://www.mariageforce.fr)

### National helplines and websites:

#### SOS mariage forcé

01 30 31 05 05

numéro géré par Voix de Femmes

3919 for domestic violence

#### SOS Rape

0800 05 95 95

[www.mariageforce.fr](http://www.mariageforce.fr)

[www.stop-violences-femmes.gouv.fr](http://www.stop-violences-femmes.gouv.fr)

## Appendix 3.3: GERMANY FEM Country Resources

### Berlin

**LANA – Fachberatungsstelle gegen Zwangsheirat und Gewalt im Namen der Ehre von TERRE DES FEMMES – Menschenrechte für die Frau e.V.**  
Brunnenstraße 128  
13355 Berlin  
Tel.: 030/40 50 46 99 - 30  
E-Mail: [beratung@frauenrechte.de](mailto:beratung@frauenrechte.de)

**Papatya Berlin**  
E-Mail: [info@papatya.org](mailto:info@papatya.org)  
[www.papatya.org](http://www.papatya.org)

**Leben lernen**  
Gutzkowstraße 7  
10827 Berlin-Schöneberg  
Tel.: 0 30/7 84 26 87  
E-Mail: [beratung@lebenlernenberlin.de](mailto:beratung@lebenlernenberlin.de)

### Duisburg

**SOLWODI**  
Postfach 101150  
47011 Duisburg  
Tel.: 0203/66 31 50  
E-Mail: [duisburg@solwodi.de](mailto:duisburg@solwodi.de)

### Frankfurt

**FIM e.V.**  
Varrentrappstr. 55  
60486 Frankfurt/Main  
Tel.: 069/97097970  
E-Mail: [info@fim-beratungszentrum.de](mailto:info@fim-beratungszentrum.de)

### Hamburg

**i.bera**  
Norderreihe 61  
22767 Hamburg  
Tel.: 040/ 350 17 72 26  
E-Mail: [i.bera@verikom.de](mailto:i.bera@verikom.de)

**LÂLE in der IKB e.V.**  
Brahmsallee 35  
20144 Hamburg  
Tel.: 040/30 22 79 78  
Fax: 040/30 22 79 81  
E-Mail: [lale@ikb-integrationszentrum.de](mailto:lale@ikb-integrationszentrum.de)

### Hannover

**SUANA Beratungsstelle/ kargah e.V.**  
Zur Bettfedernfabrik 3  
30451 Hannover  
Tel.: 0511/12 60 78-18 / -14  
E-Mail: [suana@kargah.de](mailto:suana@kargah.de)

**Niedersächsisches Krisentelefon gegen Zwangsheirat / kargah e.V.**  
Tel.: 0800/0667 888 (free of charge)  
E-Mail: [zwangsheirat@kargah.de](mailto:zwangsheirat@kargah.de)

**KOBRA –Koordinierungs- und Beratungsstelle für Opfer von Menschenhandel und Zwangsverheiratung in Niedersachsen**  
Postfach 4762  
30047 Hannover  
Tel.: 0511/898288-02  
E-Mail: [info@kobra-beratungsstelle.de](mailto:info@kobra-beratungsstelle.de)

### Köln

**Agisra e.V.**  
Martinstr. 20a  
50667 Köln  
Tel.: 0221/12 40 19  
E-Mail: [info@agisra.org](mailto:info@agisra.org)

**HennaMond**  
Wilhelm-Sollmann Str. 103  
50737 Köln  
Tel.: 0221/16993103  
E-Mail: [info@hennamond-verein.de](mailto:info@hennamond-verein.de)

### Magdeburg

**VERA – Fachstelle gegen Frauenhandel und Zwangsverheiratung in Sachsen-Anhalt Klausenerstr. 17**  
39112 Magdeburg  
Tel.: 0391/40 15 370; 0170/ 680 94 74;  
0170/3101367  
E-Mail: [vera@AWO-LSA.de](mailto:vera@AWO-LSA.de)

## Munich

### Wüstenrose

Goethestr. 47  
80336 München  
Tel. 089/4521635-0  
E-Mail: wuestenrose@imma.de

### jadwiGa

Schwanthaler Str. 79  
80336 München  
Tel.: 089/38 53 44 55  
E-Mail: muenchen@jadwiga-online.de

## Saarbrücken

### Aldona e.V.

Postfach 101413  
66014 Saarbrücken  
Tel.: 0681/373631; 0173/3065832  
E-Mail: aldona-ev@t-online.de  
Free emergency number: 0800/16 11 11 1

### Mädchenprojekt PEPERONA/DAJC-Verein

Johannisstr. 13  
66111 Saarbrücken  
Tel.: 0681/33275  
E-Mail: peperona@dajc.de

## Stuttgart

### Yasemin

Tel.: 0711/65 86 95 26; 0711/65 86 95 27  
E-Mail: info@eva-yasemin.de

**Free national hotline:** 08000/ 116 016

For a more complete list of all potential support organisations in your area, visit:

[www.zwangsheirat.de/index.php/beratung/beratungsstellen-vor-ort](http://www.zwangsheirat.de/index.php/beratung/beratungsstellen-vor-ort)

## Appendix 3.4: PORTUGAL FEM Country Resource Profile

### Governmental departments

#### **CIG - Comissão para a Igualdade e Cidadania**

Av. da República, 32, 1º, 1050-193 Lisboa  
cig@cig.gov.pt  
Tel. (+351) 217 983 000  
[www.cig.gov.pt](http://www.cig.gov.pt)

#### **ACM - Alto Comissariado para as Migrações**

Rua Álvaro Coutinho n.º 14 1150-025 LISBOA  
Tel.: (+351) 808 257 257 21 810 61 00

#### **Conselho Português para os Refugiados**

Quinta do Pombeiro, Casa Senhorial Norte  
geral@cpr.pt  
Tel: +351 - 21 831 43 72  
[www.cpr.pt](http://www.cpr.pt)

#### **Comissão Nacional para a Promoção dos Direitos e Proteção de Crianças e Jovens**

Praça de Londres, nº 2 - 2º andar 1049-056 Lisboa  
cnpcejr@seg-social.pt  
Tel: (+351) 218 441 100 [www.cnpcejr.pt](http://www.cnpcejr.pt)

#### **Polícia Judiciária**

R. Gomes Freire 174, 1169-007 Lisboa  
direccao.lpc@pj.pt  
Tel: (+351) 211 967 000  
[www.pj.pt](http://www.pj.pt)

### Nongovernmental organisations

#### **AJPAS**

Praceta Bento de Moura Portugal,  
Bairro Girassol, Venda Nova, 2700-109, Amadora  
ajpas.direccao@gmail.com  
Tel: +351 214 746 048  
[www.ajpas.org.pt](http://www.ajpas.org.pt)

#### **AMUCIP - Associação para o Desenvolvimento das Mulheres Ciganas Portuguesas**

Largo Machado dos Santos, nº8/9 2845-423  
Amora  
amucip@gmail.com  
Tel: 212 228 134 / 938 506 548  
<http://amucip.weebly.com/>

#### **APF – Associação para o Planeamento da Família**

Rua Eça de Queirós nº13 1º 1050-095 Lisboa  
apfsede@apf.pt  
Tel: (+351) 21 3853993  
[www.apf.pt](http://www.apf.pt)

#### **CESIS**

Av. 5 de Outubro, nº 12 - 4º Esq. 1050-056 Lisboa  
cesis.geral@cesis.org  
Tel: +351 213 845 560  
[www.cesis.org](http://www.cesis.org)

#### **IAC - Instituto de Apoio à Criança**

Largo da Memória, 14 LISBOA 1349-045  
iac-sede@iacrianca.pt  
Tel: +351 213 617 880  
[www.iacrianca.pt](http://www.iacrianca.pt)

#### **Movimento MUSQUEBA-Associação de Promoção e Valorização da Mulher Guineense**

[www.facebook.com/movimentomusqueba](https://www.facebook.com/movimentomusqueba)

#### **P&D FACTOR**

info@popdesenvolvimento.org  
<http://popdesenvolvimento.org/>

#### **REAPN**

Rua de Costa Cabral, 2368  
4200-218 Porto  
geral@eapn.pt  
Tel: +351 225 420 800

#### **UMAR - União de Mulheres Alternativa e Resposta**

Rua da Cozinha Económica, Bloco D, Espaços M e N,  
1300-149 Lisboa  
umar.sede@sapo.pt  
Tel: +351 218 873 005  
[www.umarfeminismos.org](http://www.umarfeminismos.org)

## Appendix 3.5: UNITED KINGDOM FEM Country Resource Profile

### England and Wales

#### Asha Projects

This South Asian organisation works to end violence against women and girls, including forced marriage.

[www.ashaprojects.org.uk](http://www.ashaprojects.org.uk)

Tel: (+44) 02086960023

#### Ashiana Network

This networks aims to empower black, minority ethnic and refugee women, particularly South Asian, Turkish and Iranian women who are experiencing domestic violence, sexual violence and harmful practices with culturally sensitive advice, support and safe housing.

[www.ashiana.org.uk](http://www.ashiana.org.uk)

Tel: (+44) 020 8539 0427

#### Forced Marriage Unit

Forced Marriage Unit (FMU) is a joint-initiative with the Foreign & Commonwealth Office and Home Office dedicated to preventing forced marriage. They work with embassy staff overseas to rescue British nationals who may have been/or who are being forced to marry.

[www.gov.uk/guidance/forced-marriage](http://www.gov.uk/guidance/forced-marriage)

Tel: (+44) 0207 008 0151

#### Freedom Charity

Freedom charity was established to raise awareness of the issues of children and young people who are at risk or are subjected to violent crimes, honour-based violence and forced marriages throughout the UK.

[www.freedomcharity.org.uk](http://www.freedomcharity.org.uk)

Tel: (+44) 0845 607 0133

#### Halo Project

This project supports victims of honour based violence and forced marriages in North East of England by providing appropriate advice and support to victims.

[www.haloproject.org.uk/](http://www.haloproject.org.uk/)

Tel: (+44) 01642 683 045

#### Henna Foundation

This organisation provides support for victims of forced marriage & 'honour' related violence and aim to mitigate this practice by offering a broad spectrum of mainstream services.

[www.hennafoundation.org](http://www.hennafoundation.org)

Tel: (+44) 02920496920

#### Iranian and Kurdish Women's Rights Organisation

IKWRO provides advice, support, advocacy and referral in Arabic, Kurdish, Turkish, Dari and Farsi to women, girls and couples living in Britain, in particular helping women facing domestic violence, forced marriage and 'honour'-based violence.

[Ikwro.org.uk](http://Ikwro.org.uk)

Tel: (+44) 0207 490 0303 (9.30-5.00) or  
07862 733511 (24hrs)

#### Jan Trust

This organisation supports communities on the issue of forced marriage, including a free helpline.

<http://againstforcedmarriages.org>

Tel: (+44) 0800 141 2994

#### Karma Nirvana

is an organisation for Asian men and women which provides a forced marriage helpline staffed by people who have escaped forced marriage and 'honour' based violence.

[www.karmanirvana.org.uk](http://www.karmanirvana.org.uk)

Tel: (+44) 0800 5999 247

#### London Black Women's Project

This organisation provides support and refuge services for women needing to escape from violent situations including women who are fearful they may be forced into marriage. They also have a resource centre with services including legal advice, counselling, support groups.

[www.lbwp.online](http://www.lbwp.online)

#### Southall Black Sisters

This is a resource centre offering information, advice, advocacy, practical help, counselling, and support to black and minority women experiencing domestic abuse. Southall Black Sisters assists in forced marriage particularly in relation to South Asian women.

[www.southallblacksisters.org.uk](http://www.southallblacksisters.org.uk)

Tel: (+44) 020 8571 9595

## Helplines

**Jan Trust** against forced marriages helpline:  
0800 141 2994

**Karma Nirvana** honour crimes and forced marriages  
helpline: 0800 5999 247

**National Domestic Violence Helpline:**  
0808 2000 247

**Muslim Youth Helpline:** 0808 808 2008

**Iranian and Kurdish Women's Rights Organisation**  
Helpline: 07862 733511

**NSPCC** helpline for child at risk of abuse:  
0808 800 5000 and 0800 056 0566 (text phone)

**Child Line** for any child or young person with a  
problem: 0800 1111

## Scotland

**Amina Muslim Women's Resource Centre**  
Works with Muslim women and promotes understanding of their needs.  
[mwrc.org.uk](http://mwrc.org.uk)  
Tel: (+44) 0808 801 0301

**Dundee International Women's Centre**  
Provides a wide range of services for women  
[diwc.co.uk](http://diwc.co.uk)  
Tel: (+44) 01382 462 058

**Men in Mind Edinburgh**  
Provide services for black and minority ethnic men who are experiencing issues that may affect their mental health and well-being.  
[health-in-mind.org.uk](http://health-in-mind.org.uk)

**Saheliya**  
Supports the mental health and well-being of black and minority ethnic women in Edinburgh  
[saheliya.org](http://saheliya.org)  
Tel: (+44) 0131 556 9302

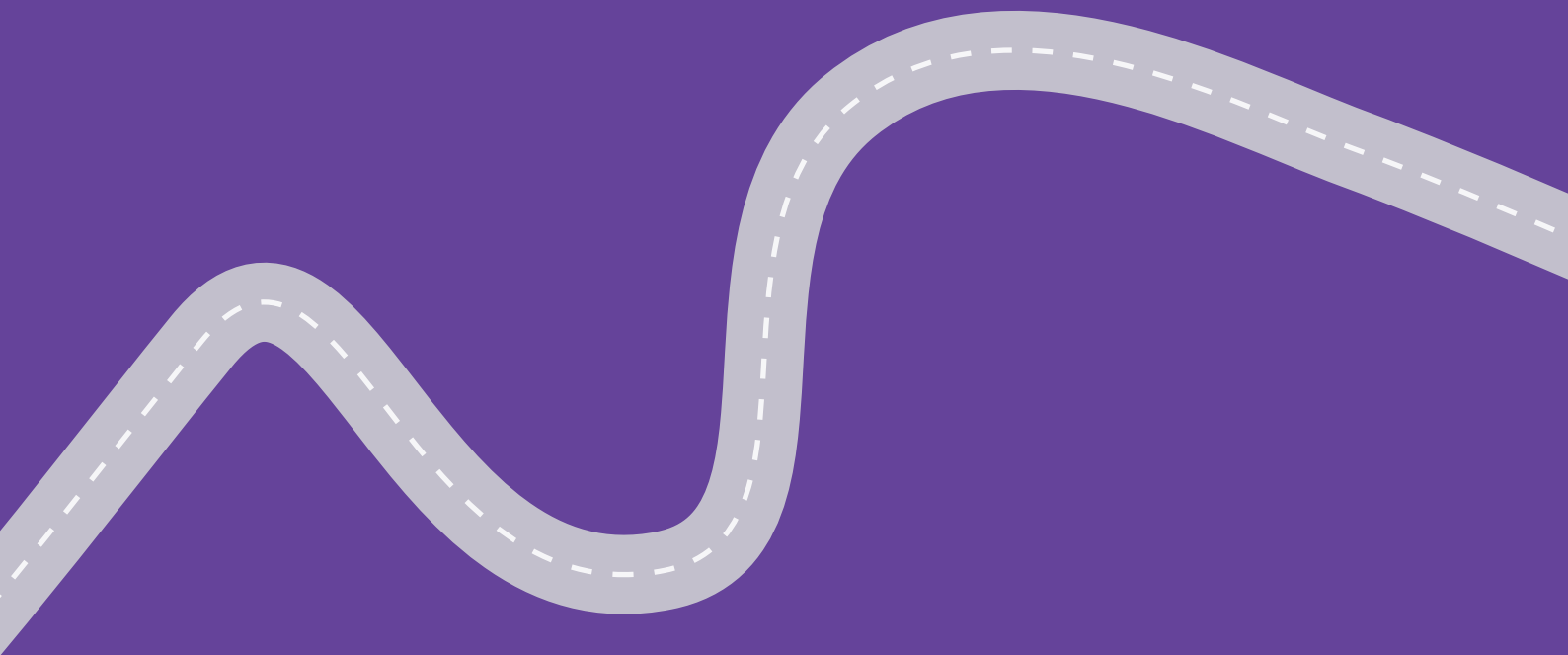
**Scottish Women's Aid**  
National organisation responding to domestic abuse, with a network of member local groups across Scotland.  
[scottishwomensaid.org.uk](http://scottishwomensaid.org.uk)

**Shakti Women's Aid**  
Provides safe temporary refuge accommodation and outreach services to women, children and young people experiencing domestic abuse or at risk of harm from domestic abuse from their husband, partner and extended family members.  
[shaktiedinburgh.co.uk](http://shaktiedinburgh.co.uk)  
Tel: (+44) 0131 475 2399

**Victim Support Scotland**  
Provides emotional support, practical help and essential information to victims, witnesses and others affected by crime.  
[victimssupportsco.org.uk](http://victimssupportsco.org.uk)  
Tel: (+44) 0845 603 9213

**West Hemat Gryffe Women's Aid**  
Provides safe temporary refuge accommodation and outreach services to women, children and young people experiencing domestic abuse or at risk of harm from domestic abuse from their husband, partner and extended family members.  
[hematgryffe.org.uk](http://hematgryffe.org.uk)  
Tel: (+44) 0141 353 0859





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