

Gwent Police Ethnic Minority Association Cymdeithas Lleiafrifoedd Ethnig Heddlu Gwent

Forced Marriage



Photo: ALAMY

Conviction of a bigamist in Wales

A Cardiff man was the first convicted in the UK of Forced Marriage to his 25-year-old victim. The [Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014](#) made it a criminal offence to force someone to marry

In June 2015 the man was convicted at Merthyr Crown Court on four counts of rape, one count of bigamy and one count of voyeurism.

The already married man used secretly recorded footage of his victim showering to emotionally force the devout Muslim to marry him. The judge in sentencing him to 16 years said that man will remain on the sex offenders' register for "an indefinite period".

DEFINED

Forced marriage is a marriage in which one or both of the parties is married without his or her consent or against his or her will.

Pressures to marry include preserving wealth and family reputation, perceived cultural or religious ideals, to assist claims for residence and citizenship or to prevent 'unsuitable' relationships.

Article 37 – Forced marriage

Parties shall take the necessary legislative or other measures to ensure that the intentional conduct of forcing an adult or a child to enter into a marriage is criminalised.

Istanbul Convention, Council of Europe (CETS No. 210), 2011

(United Kingdom a signatory since 8/6/2012)

Notes

<http://news.sky.com/story/1499572/forced-marriage-conviction-is-first-of-its-kind>

Overseas visits

"Some young people, especially of South Asian background, are tricked into visiting their family's country of origin for a holiday, only to find that there are plans to get them married there.

They may be isolated, have no access to money, telephones or their passports, and their movement will be restricted.

The local British embassy will get involved if the victim - or someone they know - informs them or the UK's Forced Marriage Unit about their situation.

Making the contact may involve some risk for the victim hence under-reporting is fairly common.

Therefore visitors are recommended to leave details of their passport, flights and overseas residence with a trusted friend in the UK and contact the Foreign Office before they travel.

Even though they are abroad, victims still have the right to legal protection as the people forcing them into marriage may be in breach of the law in the UK and other countries.."

From overseas ring the Force Marriage Unit on +44 (0)20 7008 0151



Reporting Forced Marriage

For more information, support and help you can contact the police on '101' or in an emergency ring '999. You can all speak to your teachers, your GP or other health professionals.

Connect Gwent [Self-referral](#)

References

Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 -

<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2014/12/part/10/enacted>

Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence

CETS No.: 210 -

<http://www.conventions.coe.int/Treaty/Commun/ChercheSig.asp?NT=210&CM=&DF=&CL=ENG>

Law and the justice system – guidance: Forced marriage -

<https://www.gov.uk/forced-marriage>

Why are there so few forced marriage prosecutions? -

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-33073875>

Connect Gwent Online Self-referral -

<http://www.connectgwent.org.uk/get-in-touch/self-referral/>

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