

Teaching notes

An hour's worth of materials for a PSHE lesson with Year 8–11 students.

You will need **Internet access** (including YouTube) in class.

Resources:

- **PowerPoint** (downloadable from www.teachitcitizenship.co.uk – search for 23101)
- **What is forced marriage?** – table on p.4 below
- **More details on forced marriage** – cut-out cards on p.5 below
- **Forced marriage and the law** – news story on p.5 below
- **Who to speak to about forced marriage** – list of contacts on p.6 below
- **Homework** – email to Anni on p.6 below.

Slide 1 Learning objectives

By the end of this lesson I will:

- understand what a forced marriage is and what it is not
- understand the cultural context of forced marriages
- recognise where to get help if this happens to me or anyone I know.

Slide 2 Questions for discussion

Click to reveal each question in turn.

Slide 3 What is forced marriage?

Click to display each statement.

Allocate one statement to each group of around five students. Ask them to discuss the issue and be ready to feed back to the class.

Each statement links through to a slide with the answer on, so you can either:

- discuss one question then go to the answer, discuss the next question then go to the answer, and so on, for each question in turn, or:
- discuss all the questions first, and then click on 'Skip to next slide' to view each of the answers in turn.

What is forced marriage and why does it happen?

Slides 4–9 What is forced marriage? – answers

Hand out the table from p.4 below. Display the answers and further details by clicking on each slide. Ask students to fill in the 'True or false?' column of the table as you go through.

Slide 4:

Show the video clip (2 minutes): www.youtube.com/watch?v=XAbEANYPbo

- Where are the girls from? **Answer:** South Africa.

Slide 6:

Show the video clip (5 minutes): www.guardian.co.uk/world/2009/jan/11/british-asian-forced-marriages

- Where was Jazvinder born? **Answer:** In the UK.
- How old was she when she was taken out of school? **Answer:** 15.
- Did she agree to be married? **Answer:** Only after being locked in her bedroom. She said 'yes' so they would let her out. She then ran away in the boot of someone's car.
- What happened to Jazvinder's older sister? **Answer:** She killed herself because her husband was violent but she couldn't leave without dishonouring the family.

Slide 7:

Give students 'Forced marriage and the law – a real news story' from p.5.*

- When was it made illegal? **Answer:** In June 2014.
- *Adapted from:
- www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/new-law-saves-86-victims-from-forced-marriages-1825392.html
 - www.bbc.co.uk/ethics/forcedmarriage/crime_1.shtml

Slide 8:

For more information, you could show students the following short article with a bulleted list of motives: www.bbc.co.uk/ethics/forcedmarriage/motives_1.shtml

Then hand out the cut-out cards from p.5 and ask students to stick them into the relevant 'More details' boxes.

Go quickly through slides 4–9 again if necessary.

Slide 10 Statistics on forced marriage

Click to display the statistics one by one.

Show students the video clip (1 minute):

www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=K87WzUDLZM

- What are the risks of marrying young? **Answer:** violence; contracting HIV; dying in childbirth; not going to school.

Slides 11–12 Sazia's story

Slide 11:

Show students the video clip (10 minutes): www.plan-uk.org/what-we-do/campaigns/because-i-am-a-girl/girls-rights-resources/sazia-early-forced-marriage/

Ask them to discuss the questions in pairs or small groups and then feed back to the class.

Slide 12:

Show students Sazia's three choices: www.plan-uk.org/what-we-do/campaigns/because-i-am-a-girl/girls-rights-resources/sazia-early-forced-marriage/sazias-choices/

Clicking on each one via the Plan website reveals the consequences of each choice:

- Go to Pakistan (30 seconds): Sazia marries the man her parents have chosen.
- Run away (40 seconds): Sazia looks for work, isn't given any and ends up sleeping rough.
- Call Mrs Chandra (2 minutes): The teacher takes her to a hostel and gives her the number for Karma Nirvana, who give her advice. Sazia stays in the hostel with other girls in a similar situation.

Slide 13 Who can you speak to?

Click to reveal the suggestions one by one then hand out the list of contacts from p.6.

Homework

Students imagine they work for Get Connected (www.getconnected.org.uk) and reply to an email from Anni, a teenager whose parents are trying to make her marry a stranger against her will, giving her advice about what to do.

What is forced marriage?

Statement	True or false?	More details
'Forced marriages only happen in Asian families.'		
'Forced marriages and arranged marriages are the same.'		
'Forced marriages don't happen in the UK.'		
'There's no law against forced marriage.'		
'The parents know that what they're doing is wrong.'		
'It's best not talk about it in case I offend someone.'		

More details on forced marriage

Cut out the information below and stick it into the 'More details' column of the table.

Some forced marriages are carried out in the UK.

It is illegal to force someone into marriage. The penalty is prosecution and up to two years in jail.

Forced marriage is not restricted to the south Asian community. There have been cases involving families from the Middle East, Europe and Africa.

Forced marriage should not be treated with caution for fear of offending cultural sensitivities. It can involve child abuse, abduction, violence, rape, unwanted pregnancy and enforced abortion. Refusing to marry can place a young person at risk of murder, sometimes also known as 'honour killing'.

In an arranged marriage, the bride and groom give their consent. Forced marriage is carried out without the consent of the child and often involves pressure or coercion. Forced marriage is not permissible within any culture or religion.

The concept of family honour means that some parents see nothing wrong with their behaviour. The child may have been promised in marriage to a member of the extended family, such as a cousin. The wish to build family ties, keep wealth within the family and preserve cultural or religious traditions can override the wishes of the child.

Forced marriage and the law – a real news story

In November 2009 a 17-year-old boy was convicted of rape after being 'married' to his cousin the previous year. The Albanian 'bride' was only 12 at the time. The girl's father (aged 29), uncle and aunt held the illegal marriage ceremony in front of the boy's older brother and sister-in-law (both aged 54). The girl's mother called the police when she found out what had happened.

In November 2008, Forced Marriage Protection Orders were introduced. Within a year, 86 of them were issued, helping to prevent or annul illegal marriages like the one above. People who were convicted could face up to two years in prison, but forced marriage was not banned altogether.

In June 2014, forcing someone into marriage became a criminal offence, punishable by a prison sentence.

Who to speak to about forced marriage

If you or someone you know is being forced into a marriage, you could speak to:

- your tutor
- your head of house / head of year
- another teacher
- the Forced Marriage Unit hotline / email address: 020 7008 0151 / fmf@fco.gov.uk
- the Karma Nirvana helpline: 0800 5999 247.

Homework

Anni has sent this email to 'Get Connected', a free online help service for young people (<http://www.getconnected.org.uk/>):

I'm in my last year of sixth form and I'm dreading being home for the summer. The only reason my parents allowed me to go to sixth form was on the condition that I get married after I leave. I agreed because I wanted to study art and design so much, but now, two years later, I have a great boyfriend and can't imagine marrying a stranger.

My parents don't know about my boyfriend, Paul, and would be furious if they did. He's been really supportive, but he can't understand why my family is like this.

My parents keep calling me, telling me about the boys they have seen, which ones they like, which ones they don't like. I keep quiet because I don't know what to say. I think they might suspect that I don't want to get married because they keep telling me that it would be shameful not to marry at my age, and that the whole family would reject me.

I'm dreading the summer at home and I don't know what to do.

Anni

Imagine that you work for Get Connected. Write a reply to Anni, advising her what to do.