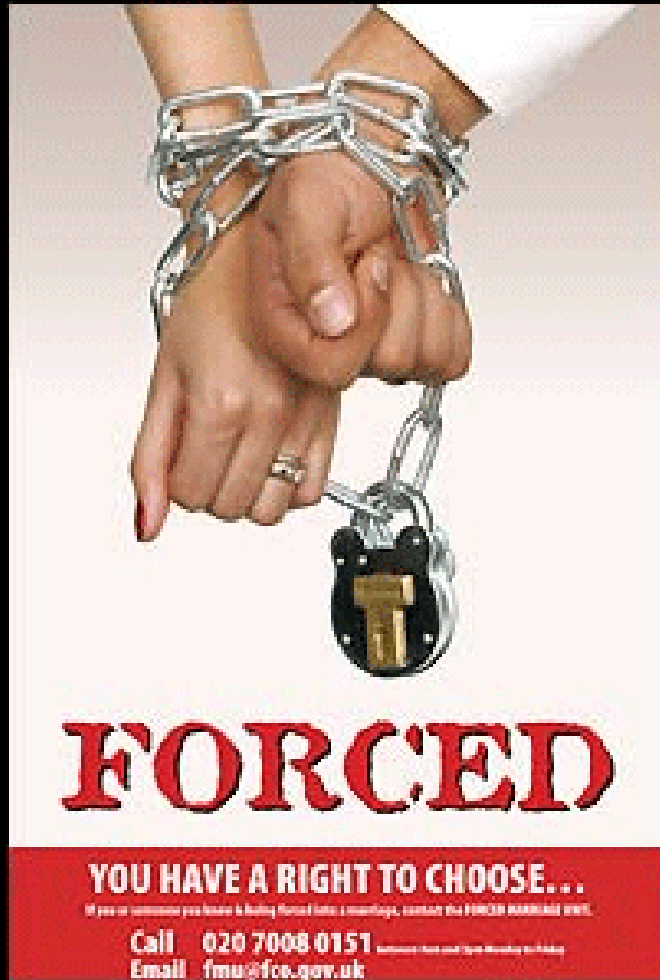


Unholy Matrimony: Forced & Underage Marriage in NZ



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Image source: <http://www.mixtogetherandfriends.org/forced-marriage/forced-marriage-tour-karma-nirvana/>

Overview

- Migration and Development
- What is Forced Marriage?
- Impact on Victims
- Current legislation(NZ)

Migration and Development

- 214 million migrants; 1 out of 33 persons (2008)
- Migration can be both beneficial and detrimental
- Migrants from NESB – may take longer to integrate
- Tradition or Human Rights violation?

Forced Marriage

- What is forced marriage?
- Duress: physical, psychological, sexual, financial & emotional pressure
- Forced marriage vs Arranged marriage
- Not a “cultural” or “religious” issue

“Forced marriages and child marriages constitute serious and recurrent violations of human rights and the rights of the child. It is an outrage that, under the cloak of respect for the culture and traditions of certain communities, there are authorities which tolerate forced marriages and child marriages although they violate the fundamental rights of each and every victim.”

– Rapporteur for the Committee on Equal Opportunities for Women and Men (Council of Europe), Mrs. Rosmarie Zapfl-Helbling

Forced & Underage Marriage

- Why do they occur?
- Immigration, “honour”, culture gap
- UN Conventions – CEDAW, CRC, ICESCR, ICCPR

Impact on Victims

- 1 in 5 clients have been forced into marriage
- Many of these are conducted in NZ
- K's story

Voices from the ground

- The extent of the issue needs to be determined
- Existing legislation is inadequate
 - Full & informed consent
 - Registration of marriage celebrants

NZ legislation

- Marriage Act 1955
- Crimes Act 1961

Conclusion

- Forced marriage is a form of violence against women
- Existing legislation is inadequate
- Why should the NZ government address this issue?

Thank You

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