

## **Forced Marriage Lesson Plan, Islam and forced marriage**

### **Session Objectives:**

To provide young people with an opportunity to:

- Discuss the Islamic perspective on forced marriages

### **Session Outcomes:**

Young people will:

- Understand the Islamic perspective on forced marriages.
- Know a range of Quotes from the Quran and Ahadith about the role of marriage within Islam.
- Understand UK legal perspective on forced marriages.

### **Duration:**

- 50 Minutes (approx)

### **Resources:**

- Quotes and Ahadith on forced marriage.
- Information about UK legislation on forced marriages.
- Arranged marriage/forced marriage definition sheet

**QCA Link:** Learners are able to:

#### Key Stage 3

- recognise that external factors, such as relationships, achievements and setbacks, can affect emotional wellbeing, and identify how they can take this into account.

#### Key Stage 4

- describe some of the possible effects of family and other significant events on feelings, emotions and personal wellbeing, and the impact these may have on relationships

## Methodology

Time	Activity	Resources
0-5 mins	Explain to the participants that this session will be examining the Islamic perspective when looking at the role of forced marriages	
5-15 mins	Divide the group into 2 and ask one group to create a definition of arranged marriages and the other group a definition of forced marriages. Bring the group back together and share each definition. Hand out the 'Arranged marriage/forced marriage definition sheet'	Arranged marriage/forced marriage definition sheet
15-20 mins	Explain to the group the role of the Quran and Ahadith within Islam. The Quran is recognised by Muslims as the word of God (Allah) which was revealed over a period of 20 years through the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH). Ahadith are a chain of narrations which have been carefully preserved since the time of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) which document his sayings, teaching and practices as examples of ways to practice Islam.	
20-35 mins	Divide the group into smaller groups and hand each group a quote from the Quran or a Hadith. Ask each group to discuss the quote/Hadith and to consider the following questions: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Does Islam support forced marriages?</li> <li>2) Why do you think some Muslim people may think that forced marriages are acceptable within Islam?</li> <li>3) Do you think that forced marriages have a place in the lives of Muslim and non-Muslims?</li> <li>4) How could being forced into a marriage affect someone?</li> </ol>	Quotes from The Holy Quran  Ahadith
35-45 mins	Bring the groups back together and ask each group to present their quote/Hadith to the group and their answers to the questions posed.	
45-50 mins	Close the session by asking each participant to post either a comment or question into the comments box which will be answered at a later date. Remind participants that they only have to add their names to the comment if they would like 1-2-1 feedback. Hand out 'Quotes from the Quran and Ahadith sheets and information on the Forced Marriage Unit. Conclude the session by highlighting the in	Quotes from The Holy Quran and Ahadith sheets  Information on the Forced Marriage Unit.

	school support/point of contact for anyone who may be affected by this subject. (ie Safeguarding lead, School Nurse, pastoral support)	
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**Facilitator's notes:**

The facilitator may find it useful to visit the Home Office Forced Marriage website to download posters, leaflets and additional resources to make available to the participants during the session.

[www.fco.gov.uk/forcedmarriage](http://www.fco.gov.uk/forcedmarriage)

Due to the sensitive nature of this session the facilitator may want to be available for a short while after the session to support pupils on a one to one basis.

The use of a comments/question box during the closing activity will allow participants to raise any personal questions or fears which can then be picked up by staff and explored in a appropriate environment.

## **Resources**

Arranged marriage/forced marriage definition sheet

### **Definition of arranged marriage**

In arranged marriages, the families of both spouses take a leading role in arranging the marriage but the choice of whether or not to accept the arrangement remains with the young people.

### **Definition of forced marriage**

In a forced marriage, one or both spouses do not consent to the arrangement of the marriage and some elements of duress are involved. Duress can include both physical and psychological pressure

## Resources

### Ahadith

Khansa Bint Khidam said "My father married me to his nephew, and I did not like this match, so I complained to the Messenger of Allah (May Allah bless him and grant him peace). He said to me "accept what your father has arranged." I said "I do not wish to accept what my father has arranged."

He said "then this marriage is invalid, go and marry whomever you wish." I said "I have accepted what my father has arranged, but I wanted women to know that fathers have no right in their daughter's matters (i.e. they have no right to force a marriage on them). (Fathul Bari Sharah Al Bukhari 9/194, Ibn Majah Kitabun Nikah 1/602)

Abu Huraira (Allah be pleased with him) reported Allah's Messenger (may peace be upon him) as having said: "A woman without a husband (or divorced or a widow) must not be married until she is consulted, and a virgin must not be married until her permission is sought. They asked the Prophet of Allah (may peace be upon him): How her (virgin's) consent can be solicited? He (the Holy Prophet) said: That she keeps silence. (Translation of Sahih Muslim, The Book of Marriage (Kitab Al-Nikah), Book 008, Number 3303)"

"Truly Allah has totally forbidden disobedience (and the subsequent hurt) to mothers, burying alive daughters, with-holding the rights of others, and demanding that which is not your right." (Hadith Muslim 4257. Recorded by Mughirah b. Shuba).

## Resources

### Quotes from the Holy Quran

"And among His signs is this that He created for you mates from among yourselves, that you may dwell in tranquility with them, and He has put love and mercy between your hearts: Verily in that are signs for those who reflect." (Quran 30:21)

"O believers! It is not lawful for you to inherit women against their will, nor that you should put restrictions on them, that you might take what you had given them... Consort with them in kindness, for if you hate them, it might happen that you hate something in which God has put much good" (The Quran 4:19).

## Resources

### Information on the Forced Marriage Unit

#### Legal position for children in the UK

'Marriage should only be entered into with the free and full consent of intending spouses' (Universal Declaration of Human Rights Article 16 (2))

The minimum age at which a person is able to give consent to marriage is 16; a person between the ages of 16 and 18 may not marry without consent from all those with Parental Responsibility (unless the young person is a widow or widower).

Section 12(c) of the Matrimonial Causes Act 1973 states that a marriage is voidable if either party to the marriage did not validly consent to it, whether as a consequence of duress, mistake, unsoundness of mind or otherwise.

#### What you can do

If you or someone you know is being forced into a marriage in the UK or abroad the Forced Marriage Unit can help you.

The Forced Marriage Unit Offers Confidential support and advice to help you

To contact the Forced Marriage Unit you can:

Call: 020 7008 0151 Monday-Friday 9am-5pm

Emergency Duty Officer: 020 7008 1500 (after 5pm weekdays and weekends)

Email: [fmu@fco.gov.uk](mailto:fmu@fco.gov.uk)

Find out more at [www.fco.gov.uk/forcedmarriage](http://www.fco.gov.uk/forcedmarriage)