

**SAVE A GIRL**  
SAVE A GENERATION



# Recognise a forced marriage

# WHAT IS FORCED MARRIAGE?



Forced marriages are marriages in which one or both parties are married **against their will, under duress** or without their **full and free consent**. It is a form of serious abuse of human rights.



It is difficult to provide an accurate estimate of the number of women around the world who have been forced to marry, as forced marriage is often hidden, unreported, and not well-documented. However, according to the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), an estimated 12 million girls are married before the age of 18 each year, and approximately 1 in 5 girls are married before they turn 18 in developing countries

## HERE ARE SOME SIGNS THAT MAY INDICATE THAT A MARRIAGE IS BEING FORCED:

### Lack of choice:

If someone is being pressured, threatened, or coerced into a marriage, they may not have a choice in the matter. They may feel that they have to go along with the marriage because of family pressure, cultural or religious expectations, or fear of the consequences if they refuse.



### Lack of agency:

In a forced marriage, the person being forced may not be able to make decisions for themselves. They may be isolated from friends and family, have limited access to information, and may not be allowed to leave their home or communicate with others freely.



### Limited communication:

Someone who is being forced into a marriage may not be able to communicate freely with others. They may be monitored by their family members or their movements may be restricted, making it difficult for them to seek help or support.



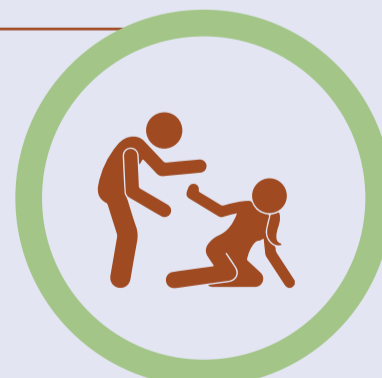
### Signs of distress:

The person being forced into a marriage may show signs of distress, such as anxiety, depression, and fear. They may be reluctant to talk about the marriage or avoid the topic altogether.



### Coercive tactics:

Those forcing someone into a marriage may use various tactics to ensure compliance. These tactics may include emotional blackmail, physical violence, or financial pressure.



If you suspect that someone may be in a forced marriage or at risk of being forced into a marriage, it is important to take action. You can contact your local authorities, social services, or non-governmental organizations (NGOs) that specialize in helping victims of forced marriage.

