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Hypothetical #1

Wafa is 21 years old and a US citizen. Her parents are originally from Pakistan, and immigrated to the US when she was 5 years old. Wafa's parents exercise a great deal of control over her life, forbidding dating and requiring she come straight home after classes at a local community college. They also monitor her computer and cell phone use very closely.

This winter Wafa's parents saw her talking with some friends from college, including a few boys and they later found out she was dating an American boy that she met at school.

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Hypothetical #1

Wafa's parents have told her they are arranging a match for her this summer in Pakistan to ensure she is settled and learns how to "act properly". Wafa has repeatedly told her parents she does not want to get married, but her family says the marriage has to go forward and that if Wafa protests she will be left behind in her father's hometown in rural Pakistan. They also threatened to disown her if she does not follow the family's wishes. Plane tickets have been purchased, but the family will not be traveling for another two months, after Wafa's mother completes a series of medical treatments. Wafa wants to leave for her own safety and to avoid the marriage, but is concerned her parents will aggressively try to find her and may harm her for both resisting the marriage and leaving home.

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Leaving is the Most Dangerous Time

- Domestic violence case data – risk of lethality highest
- Forced marriage – similar risk that if discovered attempting to leave , may be harmed or killed for dishonoring family
 - Abduction, secreted from helpers
 - Unique challenge in FM cases – multiple perpetrators
 - Appear legitimate to outsiders
 - Lack of awareness by law enforcement, child welfare agencies, DV shelter community
 - Lockdown-often very hard to reach and help extricate from the situation

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Risk Assessment

- Thorough evaluation of family history
 - Is there a history of family violence?
 - Plans for vacation, travel, marriage, suspicions of survivor
 - Siblings, uncles, aunts
 - Address, contact information of players overseas and at home
- Ask survivor what her gut instincts are - what will happen if she refuses, resists or is caught planning an escape?
 - Safety plan for emergency intervention where appropriate
 - Can she identify someone do a wellness check, remove her from home to speak with service provider or attorney

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Survivor Centered Approach

- Appreciate the psychological trauma the survivor may be experiencing
 - Leaving only home she has ever known
 - Young, minimal life experience, few resources, future is unknown
 - Fear for siblings, others left behind including pets
- Be ready for "second thoughts" remember this is her decision
 - Safety plan
 - Leave lines of communication open
 - Emergency intervention plan

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Safety Planning Around Communication & Technology

- Technology inventory
 - What is in the home- computers, tablets, phones, games, other devices?
 - How tech savvy are perpetrators?
 - Is survivor's use being restricted or monitored?
 - Exclusive use & possession or shared with others?
 - Search engines, history
 - Account access, control
- "What will happen if they learn you are trying to leave?"
- How to set up alternate means of communication

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Digital Privacy Planning: Computers

- Survivor has a laptop used for school and personal use
 - Has she searched for help online?
 - E mailed service providers or friends who know her intentions?
 - Hard drive removal & tools
- Desktop in home shared with others, accessing e-mail and social networks, online banking and other accounts
 - Spyware can be remotely downloaded
 - Keystroke logger
 - Password security

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Digital Privacy Planning: E-mail

- New e-mail accounts with secure passwords
 - Be wary of closing out old ones or changing the status quo if survivor is being monitored
 - Phone number required now with most for verification and password re-set
 - Use free privacy tools Mask Me, Hush-mail, IP anonymizers
 - Use pseudonyms (but share them with service provider)
 - Use VPN with public hotspots
 - Many free services for all devices
 - http://www.nnedv.org/downloads/SafetyNet/OVW/NNEDV_OnlinePrivacyandSafetyTips.pdf

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Digital Privacy Planning: Phones

- Account security
 - Family plan or individual?
 - Location based software on plan?
 - GPS settings
- Applications
- Contacts
- Back up, synced with other devices
 - Account access by others
 - Account access after relocating
- Major carriers are equipped to help victims of DV
 - See manager, ask for a private place to talk

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Mode of Transportation

- Air – ID required, clear history of travel, social engineering
 - Purchase o/b/o
- Bus – ID may not be required on regional bus lines
- Train – ticket purchase at Kiosk, no ID required
- Multi-modal, prepaid CC or cash
- Car – crossing state lines
 - License plates, expiration
 - Insurance
 - GPS, liens

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Day of Departure

- Remove battery from phone leave behind or with helper
 - Plan to make departure an ordinary day, if leaving device behind is a red flag, figure alternate solution
 - Carrier's policy on subpoenas
- Remove hard drive from laptop, leave behind unless unsafe
- Close bank account on way to plane, bus, train
 - Counsel can set up client trust account
 - Trail of use with ATM and CC
 - Pre-paid cc work well, no identifying info necessary

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Responding to Perpetrator's Reaction After Survivor has Fled

- We have discussed this at the onset and planned ahead with survivor on how to respond
 - Missing person's report to police
 - Outreach to police on survivor's behalf to notify that she has left voluntarily and is safe
 - Works best with attorney, police won't insist on speaking with survivor directly
 - Some DV and other programs have relationship with local police and this process is familiar
 - Other outcomes- hiring a PI, hiring counsel, spreading rumors and creating stories to try and cajole police or others to give up information
 - Identity theft, using SSN, running up credit in survivor's name
 - Social networking sites-using others as proxies to reach out to survivor
 - Unrelenting attempts to contact survivor directly or indirectly
 - Hiring someone to harm survivor

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Hypothetical #2

Radhika is originally from Bhutan. She came to the United States as a refugee with her family when she was 3 years old and now has U.S. citizenship. At the age of 18 her family began exerting tremendous pressure on her to get married. After refusing to get married before she finished her education her father severely beat her, and told her that she had no choice but to accept the groom they chose for her. Her injuries though serious, went untreated and took weeks to heal.

A few months later her parents told her that they would all have to travel overseas to visit a sick relative, however, once they arrived it became clear that they had brought Radhika overseas to be married. While she continued to refuse her father and his family members beat her and forced her to do household chores for over 12 hours a day. After several months, when this treatment became too much to take, Radhika reluctantly resigned herself to a marriage to one of her paternal cousins and was allowed to return to the U.S. shortly after the marriage ceremony took place.

A few months after Radhika returned home she realized that her parents had filed a visa petition so that her husband could immigrate to the United States. Radhika did not sign the petition and does not want her husband to come to the U.S. but she is afraid of the consequences. She is getting ready to leave the family home, and wants to ensure that her family cannot find her as she works to withdraw the visa and end the marriage.

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Challenges Survivor Faces After Returning to the US

- Potentially high risk of physical harm and /or lethality
 - They may stalk and try to kidnap survivor to return to the marriage
 - Honor violence
- Immigration fraud – consequences of survivor withdrawing sponsorship
 - Retribution in any way they can find
- The survivor has legal and other challenges ahead of her
 - Marriage that would not be recognized in a US court but is recognized by DHS.
 - Increased risk due to family's filing of visa petition she has a hard choice to make.
 - Independence and education will be a struggle without support and collaborative efforts.

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Collaboration is Critical - Partners in typical cases include:

- Resources United, Women in Lethal Danger (855-RUN-WILD)
- Tahirih Justice Center
- US Department of State
- US Embassy
- Shelter program
- Culturally competent NGO's
- Law enforcement
- Pro-Bono legal services
- Health, education, transitional living programs

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Addressing Survivor's Preliminary Needs

- Embassy has obtained a temporary emergency passport, this is a good start if survivor fled without documents
 - New citizenship or immigration documents
 - State laws on access to birth records
 - Re-creating identity risks revealing location information
- Medical, safe shelter
- Assess safety and location of perpetrators, etc.
 - Survivor's opinion of what perpetrators are likely to do
- Civil Legal Proceedings
 - Annulment, divorce, defense of international child custody case

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Identity Change & Privacy Planning

- They are not mutually exclusive.
- ID change in the US is an imperfect process *please* seek technical assistance!
- What we mean by "Identity Change"
 - Name change by court order or on naturalization
 - State laws on notice
 - Issuance of a 2nd SSN
 - Either or both
- ID change should only be done as a very last resort.

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Identity Change & Privacy Planning

- Survivors may have a false sense of security
 - Depending on individual circumstances, old and new identity could be connected at a number of different points.
 - Birth record, passport
 - "A" number remains the same
 - State ID or driver's license
 - Increased use of biometrics
 - Public benefits
 - Student loans
 - Employment/licensure
- Survivor's should make a fully informed decision and know the exact outcomes of ID change, when they will need to divulge that they have changed ID.

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Location, Identity & Privacy Protection

- DV, SA & Stalking: survivors found because of friends, family and information in the public domain.
 - We **do not** advise survivors to "cut off all ties."
 - We **do** bring others into the privacy planning process.
- Universal privacy components- our only template!
 - USPs & NCOA database
 - ACPs nationally
 - Seek TA around keeping out of public domain and removing info to the extent possible.
 - Understand and combat data mining, data brokers and public record information
 - Eyes wide open- big data is growing and laws are not keeping up
 - Identity protection is harder than ever
 - Identity change in the US has flaws

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Privacy Tools

<http://www.abine.com/blog/2013/you-cant-stop-the-nsa-from-tracking-you-but-you-can-mess-up-their-data/>

| | |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------|
| • Private ISP | • Private Search engines |
| • Private Wireless: Cricket | • Private Mobile browsers |
| • Encryption | • VPN |
| • Android Proxy | • Tracker Blocking |
| • iOS Proxy | • Private txt messaging |

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Location, Identity & Privacy Protection

- Safe communication with others after relocating
 - IP address, location information embedded in images, phones
- Social Networking & privacy
 - http://www.nnedv.org/downloads/SafetyNet/NNEDV_Privacy_and_Safety_on_Facebook_Guide.pdf
- Safe computer use
 - <http://www.nnedv.org/resources/safetynetdocs.html>
- Public domain
 - Survivors should know what is public information and how to avoid or control publication
 - Removing information or burying it

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Questions





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Technical Assistance

Relocation Counseling & Identity Protection Initiative
is a joint venture of the
National Network to End Domestic Violence
and **Greater Boston Legal Services**

- Toll free: 800-323-3205
- Dedicated #: 617-603-1557
- relocation@nnedv.org
- NNEDV: 202-543-5566



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For information on upcoming webinars, trainings, and news about forced marriage in the United States, please sign up for the:

National Network to Prevent Forced Marriage & Forced Marriage Newsletter

at Tahirih's website:
www.tahirih.org/advocacy/policy-areas/forced-marriage-initiative/

Or contact: FMI@tahirih.org