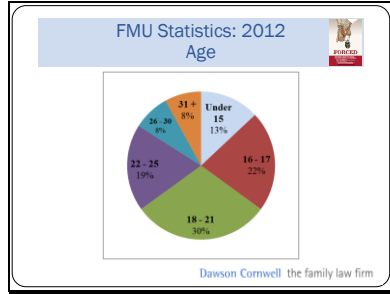
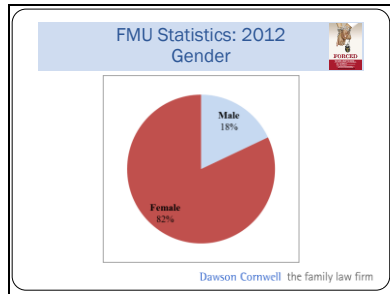


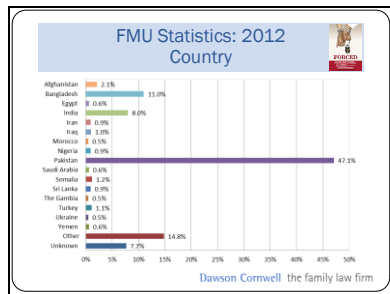
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Criminalisation



- At present there is no specific offence of forcing someone to marry in England. Where there is an actual or threatened Forced Marriage, a number of offences may be committed including kidnapping and assault.
- June 2000 Home Office report ('A choice by right') and 2005 consultation – no intention to criminalise forcing someone to marry.

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Criminalisation




- Home Affairs Select Committee (HASC) published a report in May 2008 and a further report in May 2011.
- Government voiced its commitment in October 2011 to criminalise the breach of Forced Marriage Civil Protection Orders and to consult on creating a specific criminal offence of forcing someone to marry.
- Further consultation published in June 2012, 'Forced Marriage – A Consultation: Summary of Responses'.

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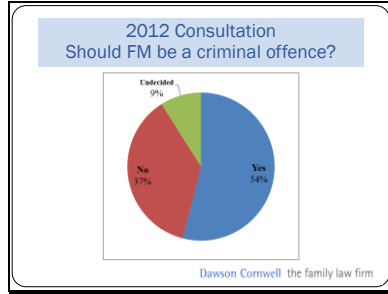
Criminalisation Pros



- A new criminal offence could have a deterrent effect that would reduce the number of Forced Marriages. Robust sentencing would demonstrate that people are being brought to account for their actions in a public domain.
- An offence would send a clear signal, both within the UK and outside its borders, that it is unacceptable to force a person to marry, that it is an action which society as a whole condemns and that there will be consequences for perpetrators.
- It could also empower young people to challenge their parents and their wider family, as well as giving victims a stronger sense that being forced into marriage is wrong.
- A specific offence would allow a perpetrator to be punished for his wrongdoing.

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- 2012 Consultation
Issues
- Deal with Forced Marriage more effectively to ensure that victims' needs are being considered properly.
 - Improve training for professionals on the Government's multi-agency practice guidelines and the civil remedies available to victims.
 - Clarify distinction between forced and arranged marriage to ensure that perpetrators do not hide behind misconceptions about what their culture and religion requires.
 - Provide more funding and support services, including refuges, for victims.
 - Increase the level of training and media campaigns, and promote more awareness in mainstream society, including in schools, about Forced Marriage.
 - Apply any measures to tackle Forced Marriage to all communities to prevent stigmatisation of a particular culture, religion or minority group.
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Government's response 

"Having held a detailed consultation and listened carefully to all views, we have decided to make forcing someone to marry a criminal offence. In doing so, we are sending out a clear message that this practice is totally unacceptable and will not be tolerated.

We do recognise the concerns raised by many that new criminal law may deter reporting of forced marriage. We will therefore ensure that we work closely with partners to implement any legal change within the context of a broader strategy for encouraging a sensitive and appropriate response to all potential cases, which puts the victim centre stage."

The aim is to introduce a specific Forced Marriage offence in 2013 / 2014.

The Government in the consultation also renewed its commitment to making the breach of a Forced Marriage Civil Protection Order a criminal offence.

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