



Child Marriage Factsheet

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Child Marriage Helpline Data, 2020–22

177

Children facing the threat of Child Marriage

90

Children were going to be taken abroad to be married

56

Children didn't know where the marriage was planned

Age of Children

113

Children were aged 16 or 17 years old.

3%

of children were under the age of 12.

13%

of victims had said no to the marriage

9%

of victims had a history of forced marriage in the family.

Professionals

54%

Referrals from Children's Social Care

11%

Referrals from schools

9%

Referrals from police

64%

of victims were at risk from their fathers

29%

of victims were at risk from their mothers

34%

of victims were at risk from both parents

**This information is based on self-reported data from individuals who choose to contact the helpline. This will not reflect the true prevalence of child marriage in the UK.*

Case Studies

13-year-old female victim disclosed having experienced physical and emotional abuse since she was a young child. When she was 12 she disclosed to a teacher what she had been experiencing, her parents found out and she was taken out of the country where she lived with extended family and suffered continuing abuse. She returned to the UK knowing that her father was planning a marriage to someone she didn't know. The victim returned to the UK and was identified as being at risk and moved to safe accommodation.

17-year-old female victim fled back to the UK as she was being forced into a child marriage overseas. She was living with her in-laws who were keeping her isolated from the outside world. The 17-year-old girl had no money or independence, and was aware that her father could return to the UK and take her back overseas to carry out the marriage. She was planning to flee her in-laws, but faced the barrier of putting shame on her in-laws too if she left.

16-year-old female victim experienced abuse from her parents and extended family members living in the same home. She wasn't allowed to wear anything deemed 'western,' and was the sole cleaner, cook and carer for her younger siblings. There was a history of forced marriage in her family, including her parents and in-laws. At 14 years old her parents attempted to force her into a child marriage with different older men from Pakistan. When she refused she was beaten. A year later her father found a man from the UK who she was expected to marry. She ran away from home and thought she was going to be killed by father if he ever found her. He did find her and it's thought that although services were supporting her, he arranged for members of the community to monitor, threaten and physically attack her.

**Details have been changed or omitted to protect the identity of victims*
