

Responding To Forced Marriage:
Practice Guidelines for Legal Professionals

Scottish Government 2012

Contents

About this guidance

Legal context

One chance checklist

Key practice messages

Forced marriage and the movement of people

National support agencies and other useful contacts

About this guidance

Everyone has a right to enter into marriage with their full and free consent. Forced marriage is an abuse of human rights.

The Scottish Government has published this guidance to assist legal professionals in private practice, law centres, local authorities, Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service, Scottish Children's Reporters Administration and others to work with victims¹ of forced marriage sensitively and effectively and in partnership with other agencies involved with the victim. It is aimed particularly at those representing victims.

It does not provide technical information about the civil or criminal law. Rather, it highlights the main issues you should be aware of which affect victims of forced marriage. **You should read it together with the statutory guidance² and practitioner guidance referenced below.**

Knowing about the particular safety concerns associated with forced marriage may help you to ensure that victims who turn to the law for protection are kept as safe as possible. See the '**one chance checklist**' on page xx.

You should consider any actions, including orders under the Act, as part of child and adult protection and in the context of protection from domestic abuse.

Further information and guidance

The Scottish Government has published detailed information about the Act including a summary of its main provisions, what Forced Marriage Protection Orders (FMPOs) are designed to do, their fit with other legal remedies, ending a forced marriage and other options for protection under civil law, criminal law and adult and child protection. This information includes:

Statutory guidance under section 11 of the Act. This describes the responsibilities of chief executives, directors and senior managers within agencies involved in responding to forced marriage. It covers roles and responsibilities, accountability, training, inter-agency working and information sharing, risk assessment and record keeping. It is at: www.scotland.gov.uk/ForcedMarriageStatutory

Multi-agency practice guidance for frontline practitioners who are responsible for protecting children and adults from the abuse associated with forced marriage. This is at: www.scotland.gov.uk/ForcedMarriagePractice and a summary version at: www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2011/11/11134734/0

It is important that you familiarise yourself with these documents because they provide detailed information about forced marriage and how solicitors and others can respond effectively.

¹ Victims can be male or female, but are most likely to be the latter.

² Relevant for legal professionals in local authorities.

News on how the law is working in practice is also available at
www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/People/Equality/violence-women/forcedmarriage

Legal context

- Forced marriage is an abuse of the basic human rights of children, young people and adults, as set out in the European Convention on Human Rights (www.echr.coe.int). It is also directly contrary to the domestic laws of Scotland and the other UK countries
- It contradicts various articles of the UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) (www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/cedaw/cedaw.htm) and specifically Article 16, the right to enter into a marriage only with free and full consent
- General recommendations 19 and 21 from the relevant UN committee note that forced marriage deprives women of the equal enjoyment, exercise and knowledge of human rights and fundamental freedoms
- Forced marriage may involve an abuse of a child's rights under the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (www.ohchr.org/english/law/crc.htm)

Forcing someone to marry, or taking advantage of their lack of understanding to trick them into taking part in a marriage, although not itself a specific crime in Scotland, is against the law; so too is taking someone away from Scotland, against their will, to be married elsewhere. It could amount to a criminal offence such as assault. It may involve other criminal conduct such as abduction, physical abuse and threats. Some victims have been killed.

Forced Marriage Protection Orders (under the Forced Marriage etc (Protection and Jurisdiction)(Scotland) Act 2011) exist to protect people who are threatened with or who are already in a forced marriage. A victim or potential victim may apply for an order; third parties can also apply on a victim's behalf. It is a criminal offence to breach a FMPO.

There are complexities associated with factors such as immigration status; nationality; dual nationality and whether the victim is in Scotland, elsewhere in the UK or overseas. These complexities affect how you can assist victims. There are specialist agencies which can provide advice on these issues. **The Forced Marriage Unit (FMU)** which is part of the UK Government Foreign and Commonwealth Office has particular expertise (see contacts section on page xx).

The legislation

The Scottish Parliament passed the Forced Marriage etc. (Protection and Jurisdiction)(Scotland) Act 2011 to protect people at risk of being forced to marry without their free and full consent as well as those who have already been forced to do so. Its main provisions include:

- Introducing civil Forced Marriage Protection Orders (FMPOs) to protect people from being forced to marry or who have already been so. These orders are broad and can relate to conduct within or outside Scotland
- Specifying that the victim; anyone on behalf of the victim with the court's permission; or a 'relevant third party' on behalf of the victim but who does not need the court's permission can apply for a FMPO. Relevant third parties are local authorities, the Lord Advocate, and any other person specified by Scottish Ministers
- Allowing a court in civil proceedings to make a FMPO on its own initiative and in criminal proceedings, to refer the matter to the Lord Advocate to make an application for a FMPO
- A new criminal offence of breach of a FMPO
- Clarifying the authority of the Sheriff Court for annulling such marriages
- Statutory powers enabling Scottish Ministers to apply the provisions of part one of the Act to civil partnerships
- Requiring those exercising public functions to have regard to guidance issued by Scottish Ministers

It may be very difficult indeed for a victim to apply to the court for a FMPO because of the enormity and possible consequences of going against the wishes of parents or communities. These barriers may be greater if the victim is a child or a vulnerable adult in need of support and protection.

For these reasons, the Act provides for intervention by relevant third parties and, in criminal proceedings, the Lord Advocate.

The legislation is at: www.legislation.gov.uk/asp/2011/15/contents/enacted

Role of the Lord Advocate

In civil proceedings before a sheriff or the Court of Session, the court can make a FMPO to protect a victim (whether or not a party to the proceedings). For example, a victim may be applying to the court for a protective civil order, and, during the proceedings, the court may consider that the circumstances of the matter are such that a FMPO should be made.

If, in criminal proceedings, before a sheriff or the High Court of Justiciary, the court considers that a FMPO should be made (for instance, where evidence led at the trial reveals that a person may be at risk of being forced into a marriage) it may refer the matter to the Lord Advocate, who may apply for a FMPO or take other steps as appropriate.

Application for FMPO and reporting a breach

Pages 61-66 of the practitioner guidance at www.scotland.gov.uk/ForcedMarriagePractice provide details of FMPOs; what they are designed to do; and applications. If a FMPO is breached, the first step the victim or solicitor should take is to phone the police and inform them of the whole circumstances including the degree of urgency of the case.

Whether you work within private practice, a local authority or elsewhere, you must keep in mind the need for safety and confidentiality; linking with key agencies/multi-agency partners albeit within strict limits; scrupulous risk assessment; and ensuring that the victim is kept fully informed.

Costs

You should make any cost implications clear to victims. There are costs to third parties in lodging an application for a FMPO and subsequent solicitors' fees.

If a local authority or other agency applies for a FMPO as a third party, it would have to absorb any costs within their normal operating budget.

Legal aid

Only a solicitor who is registered with the Scottish Legal Aid Board can apply for legal aid.

If an individual wishes to apply for legal aid through an organisation, the solicitor who works with the organisation would need to make the application. All costs (including the court fees) would be met by SLAB. The organisation would not be able to claim any costs to pay their solicitor.

The organisation may refer the person to a solicitor in private practice/law centre/civil legal assistance offices to obtain the order if they do not have the expertise to do it themselves or do not want to incur the cost.

For information about legal aid see www.slab.org.uk

Styles

Styles will be available in Butterworth's Scottish Family Law Service from autumn 2012.

Case law and experience

Experience in using the legislation and FMPOs is developing. Keep an eye on the Scottish Government website for latest news:

www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/People/Equality/violence-women/forcedmarriage

Please contribute your own experience by contacting:

Eileen.flanagan@scotland.gov.uk

One chance checklist

You may only have one chance to speak to a potential victim of forced marriage and, therefore, only one chance to save a life

- See the victim on their own even if they arrive at your office accompanied by others
- See the victim in a secure and private place where you will not be overheard
- Provide a professional interpreter in strict accordance with good practice (never a child, friend or family member). See <http://tinyurl.com/6sxkwmw>
- Reassure the victim about confidentiality (in line with your professional policy) and explain that you will not give information to their family/friends or community
- Take what the victim says seriously
- Explain all the options to the victim and possible outcomes
- Recognise and respect the victim's wishes
- Agree a way to contact the victim safely (for example agree a code word)
- Obtain full details and record these safely
- Give the victim (or help them memorise) your contact details and/or those of a support agency such as Women's Aid (see contact section)
- Consider the need for quick action including immediate police involvement, protection and placement away from the family and arrange this if necessary; this includes any action to stop the victim from being removed from the UK
- Do everything you can to keep the victim safe in the context of the risk they face
- Get immediate advice if you are not sure what to do, especially about a place of safety and arrangements for follow up. Refer to the Family Law Association or Law Society of Scotland websites (see page xx) for information about those with experience in this sphere

DO NOT

- Send the victim away or let them leave without a safety plan and follow up arrangements

- Approach the victim's friends/family or community unless the victim asks you to do so
- Approach community leaders for advice
- Share information with anyone without the victim's express consent (unless there is a risk of immediate harm to her or any children or the victim lacks capacity to give consent or is unable to give informed consent)
- Attempt to mediate with the family

Key practice messages

Always remember the 'one chance' rule: you may only have **one chance** to speak to a potential victim of forced marriage and, therefore, only **one chance** to save a life

About forced marriage

- A forced marriage is a marriage in which one or both spouses do not (or, in the case of children/young people/adults at risk, cannot) consent to the marriage and duress is involved. Duress can include physical, psychological, financial, sexual and emotional pressure, threatening conduct, harassment, threat of blackmail, use of deception and other means. Force includes knowingly taking advantage of a person's incapacity to consent to marriage or to understand the nature of the marriage. Duress may be from parents, other family members and the wider community
- Forced marriage is internationally recognised as a form of gender-based violence against women. It is a form of domestic abuse and, when children are involved, child abuse. It is associated with other forms of domestic abuse and 'honour-based' violence
- Forced marriage is different to arranged marriage in which the families of both spouses take a leading role in arranging the marriage but the prospective spouses have the choice whether or not to accept the arrangement. This tradition has existed successfully in many communities and countries for a very long time. But if the prospective spouse changes their mind and is forced to go ahead with the marriage, it is considered a forced marriage
- Victims of forced marriage are usually women but men can be victims too (most likely to be adults with learning or physical disabilities). People with physical and learning disabilities may be forced into marriage by families wanting to ensure their long-term care. Lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender (LGBT) people are also affected
- Experience from England indicates that some victims have been as young as nine years old, with forced marriage a child protection issue. Others have been as old as 35 with adult support and protection needs
- Victims may not be aware that their families are doing anything wrong
- Victims are often under **enormous** cultural pressure to conform to the wishes of family and community
- The community may view leaving the family, accusing the family of crime or simply approaching an agency for help as bringing shame on both its 'honour' and that of the family. This may lead to social ostracism, harassment and even physical or sexual violence by the family and community. It is not uncommon

for victims to be killed (so-called 'honour' killing) or to commit suicide. Many victims are, understandably, unable to risk such abuse and humiliation

- The circumstances of forced marriage are such that victims may remain with or return to families and communities or not be able to follow through on actions. This is not a failure on their part. The consequences of leaving family and communities are long-term and may involve ongoing risk and stress. Emphasise to victims that your service is always available to them

Indicators of forced marriage

There are various signs which might alert you to the possibility of forced marriage. Although these are more likely to come to the attention of a frontline practitioner such as a teacher, social worker, GP or police officer, legal professionals may notice or the victim may disclose something significant. This could be associated with:

- A victim's lack of knowledge of geographical area
- Lack of knowledge of immigration status/no documentation
- Police involvement, for example missing persons, domestic abuse, victim reported for shoplifting or substance misuse
- Family history, for example early/forced marriage of siblings
- Education issues such as absence from school; decline in attendance or performance; prevented from attending college or university
- Health issues including depression, self-harm and attempted suicide

Forced marriage may come to light in the context of another matter being prosecuted such as a breach of the peace or assault or in the context of an individual's immigration status.

Victims are likely to always be accompanied by a family member to appointments; and may live very restricted and isolated lives.

Crimes under the guise of 'honour' are often carried out in the name of religion and tradition. All major faiths speak against forced marriage. Victims may have been conditioned to believe that they must follow through with such a marriage

Your response as a legal professional

Although some people may, misguidedly, defend forced marriage as a cultural tradition, it is not 'cultural' and amounts, at least, to domestic abuse. Legal and other professionals must be prepared to intervene. This is not being, in some way, 'racist'.

- You should see the victim in a place which is safe, quiet and free of interruption

- You should provide a professional and independent interpreter if required. See good practice at <http://tinyurl.com/6sxkwmw>
- Be aware that a woman victim may not be allowed or willing to speak to a male solicitor alone
- Victims may be frightened of lawyers or a 'male' domain. It is important to explain clearly the your role as lawyer; confidentiality and the limits to this; and the role of other organisations
- You should reassure victims and explain the role of other agencies such as the police. Such agencies may be corrupt or quasi-military in a victim's country of origin. Social work and child protection are likely to be alien concepts
- It is important to give good clear information and to dispel myths. For example, families can threaten victims that they will be deported
- You should explain in clear and simple language what 'consent' means
- It may be difficult for you to obtain instructions. This can be linked to fear or because victims are not used to or allowed to make decisions. Advocacy organisations may be valuable in supporting victims to give instructions
- Many victims do not understand that forced marriage is a human rights abuse. They may not perceive themselves as victims. This may be because they see the practice as 'normal'. For example, victims who have come to the UK from overseas may see their lives in the UK as better than their country of origin. They may not understand that they need, or have a right to help
- Perpetrators themselves may not think that they are doing anything wrong. For example families may think that they are being helpful, for example, in obtaining a carer for a disabled son or daughter
- A victim may seek advice but not want to leave the abuse or exploitation because she fears deportation, homelessness and cultural and social ostracism. Your role may be to help her link into various services such as housing, immigration advice and advocacy services. This last is particularly important as otherwise you may spend considerable time on advocacy/empowerment work better left to specialists, and it will free up your time to do the legal work

Focus on safety and protection

Victims of forced marriage are often entrapped by fear and by the abusive behaviour and actions of family members, partners and communities. This is all the more intense because of the weight of cultural expectations, the victims' own beliefs and

their fear of bringing 'dishonour' their families. See more at www.scotland.gov.uk/ForcedMarriagePractice

- **Always** focus on the safety and protection of victims and avoid contributing to risk
- If interpreting is required, provide an independent and professional interpreter. This should never be a family member, children or an apparent 'friend' who may be a family member masquerading as support
- **Be ready** to take very quick action, for example if a victim is at risk of being taken out of the country
- **Always** take the issue and the concerns of the victim seriously and recognise the potential risk of very significant harm to the victim. Many practitioners may underestimate, or find it hard to believe the lengths that families go to in order to force a marriage and that families **do** kill in the name of 'honour'
- **Always** discuss ways of communicating safely with the victim as a letter/phone call may have serious repercussions
- **Never** attempt family counselling, mediation, arbitration and reconciliation if forced marriage is an issue because this can put a victim at further risk
- **Never** share information with family/friends/community members; and, if sharing information with other practitioners in your own or other agencies, only do so if necessary to protect a victim
- If you need to share information with another agency you should obtain consent from the victim (within the limits of, for example child protection policy). **Always** explain who you plan to share information with, why and who else might be party to it
- **Always** store information about the case securely, with restricted access and in compliance with record management procedures
- **Remember** that family/community members may work in your organisation
- **Remember** that a victim's life may be at stake

Take preventative action

Give clear advice to a victim who is concerned about going abroad.

If a victim cannot avoid going abroad:

- Ask them to leave a copy or details of their passport(s), travel documents, identity cards, if they can

- Check if they have dual nationality and advise them to travel on their British passport if possible
- Note travel and flight details
- Make sure they know the details of the British Embassy/Consul where they are going
- Find out when they are due back
- Make arrangements for them to contact someone at regular intervals and also when they arrive back in the UK
- Agree a code word which they can use to alert someone to take action and agree what that action will be

Forced marriage and the movement of people

Other jurisdictions

The nature of forced marriage means that victims may arrive in Scotland from elsewhere in the UK or from overseas. Similarly, victims who are usually resident in Scotland may travel elsewhere in the UK (or overseas), either for safety reasons or because their families remove them from Scotland. In such cases, standard procedures, as with any other legal action, apply.

Note that the age of majority in England and Wales is 18. This means that certain services (for example accommodation), which would be available to young people aged 16 and 17 in Scotland, are not provided in the same way.

Note that in England, at the time of writing³, breach of a Forced Marriage Protection Order is not a criminal offence.

Assistance from the Forced Marriage Unit

The Forced Marriage Unit (in the Foreign and Commonwealth Office) is an important source of assistance for forced marriage which involves a UK or overseas element (see contacts section).

You should contact the Forced Marriage Unit before applying for a Forced Marriage Protection Order for a British National who is overseas, wherever possible. This is particularly relevant if the order is to include provisions to present the victim at the British Embassy or High Commission. The Forced Marriage Unit can give information about the practicalities involved, such as public and religious holidays which may affect the execution of the order.

Forced marriage and immigration matters

Although forced marriages occur in the UK they often involve partners from overseas and so there may be issues to do with immigration. The UK government regards forced marriage as a form of domestic abuse, and when it affects children or young people, child abuse.

Indeed, a victim's immigration position may be used as a means of control or threat for them to remain in or go through with a forced marriage.

British citizens may have been forced to sponsor the entry of their spouse into the UK and their continued presence here.

³ For an up-to-date picture see the Foreign and Commonwealth Office website at www.fco.gov.uk/en/travel-and-living-abroad/when-things-go-wrong/forced-marriage/

For non-British citizens, some victims may have no documents to establish that they have permission to be in the UK. Some may not know what their immigration position is. For others, it may be that permission to stay in the UK depends on their marriage subsisting or they may never have had permission to enter and remain here.

A victim's immigration position can therefore be used as a means of control or threat for them to remain in or go through with a forced marriage.

It can be vital that a victim obtains immigration advice to establish their current immigration position and any options open to them under UK law. For instance, using the Immigration Rules, a spouse who is here on a probationary visa with limited leave to remain can apply for indefinite leave to remain in the UK provided they can establish that the relationship broke down as result of domestic abuse (see below).

The UK Border Agency and the Forced Marriage Unit (see page xx) can provide further detail on issues relevant to immigration, nationality and forced marriage.

Note that, by law, only authorised advisers can give immigration advice.

Dual nationality

If a person is a British national and also holds the nationality of another country, they are considered to be a dual national. This may mean that, in the country of their other nationality, the authorities may view them as being solely or primarily nationals of that country and treat them accordingly. They may not recognise that the British Embassy or High Commission has any right to assist them or may not permit any assistance to be given. If the Foreign and Commonwealth Office considers that there is a special humanitarian reason to do so, it will consider offering assistance to dual nationals in the country of their other nationality. Forced marriage is one of those circumstances where such an exception may be made.

- Advise anyone facing or experiencing forced marriage who holds dual nationality to travel under their British passport
- When asking a court to order the surrender of the passports of a person to prevent them from being taken abroad, ensure that this includes all passports if they are a dual national

International protection

Forced marriage and violence within the family and community (such as 'honour' killings) are forms of gender-based violence which may amount to persecution and be capable of founding a claim for international protection from the UK Government (UK Border Agency (www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk) policy on 'gender issues in the asylum claim').

Even if a claim for international protection is not applicable, it may also be possible to make an application to remain in the UK based on human rights considerations and/or compassionate reasons (see UK Border Agency policy on Discretionary Leave).

Advice should be sought from an authorised immigration adviser.

Human trafficking

Human trafficking involves moving, harbouring, transferring or receiving individuals using duress or deception for the purposes of exploitation. A forced marriage can be classified as a situation of exploitation if certain conditions are met. For instance, in the UK, it has been recognised that children have been forced into marriage and trafficked to maintain family ties, improve a family's economic position and for spouses to gain permanent residence in the UK. A forced marriage can also be the result of trafficking with victims forced into 'servile' marriages and related exploitation, for example victims being used as unpaid and forced labour.

The UK Government has a national referral mechanism for identifying such victims. There is a different system for UK and EEA citizens and everyone else. With 'everyone else' the UK Border Agency makes the identification. The mechanism can be used to access safe housing and legal advice. For more information see:

www.soca.gov.uk/about-soca/about-the-ukhtc/national-referral-mechanism
www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/documents/policyandlaw/asylumprocessguide/specialcases/
www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Justice/crimes/humantraffick

'No recourse to public funds'

If a victim has come to the UK from overseas on a spousal or other temporary visa, such as a student study visa, they may not have permission to remain in the UK on a permanent basis.

Since they have no permission to remain in the UK permanently, they are, therefore, likely to be ineligible to obtain 'public funds', such as welfare benefit payments (income support, housing benefit) and access to temporary and permanent local authority accommodation. This has a direct impact on a victim's ability to get accommodation and support, including refuge provision. (Note that this does not prevent them from applying for housing association accommodation as this does not come under the definition of public funds.)

Getting accommodation and support is essential for a victim to be able to leave a forced marriage. It is vital that advice is provided to a victim on their eligibility for this as there are various routes depending on their personal circumstances and/or immigration position.

A Destitution Domestic Violence (DDV) concession is available to those who entered the UK or were given leave to remain in the UK as a spouse, civil partner, unmarried

or same sex partner of a British citizen, or someone present and settled in the UK, whose relationship has broken down due to domestic abuse, are destitute and need financial help; and who are going to make a claim to stay permanently in the UK under the Domestic Violence Immigration Rule (Settlement DV).

Migrants considered eligible by the UKBA will be granted a limited period of leave, three months temporary leave Outside of the Rules (LOTR) on exceptional grounds. This will enable the applicant to then apply separately to the Department of Work and Pensions for financial help by accessing public funds to allow them time to find safe accommodation, and complete a substantive application for indefinite leave to remain (ILR) under the domestic violence provision in the immigration rules. Applications for LOTR are made to the UKBA by completing an online form available at www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/

Applications for ILR under the Domestic Violence Immigration Rule require supporting evidence. Legal professionals are in a good position to help a victim to compile this. You can also help with a victim's application under the above rule by providing evidence of domestic abuse.

If an individual does not apply for ILR under the domestic violence rule within the three months or make a different application for leave, their leave will come to an end and they will be required to leave the UK.

See:

- www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/documents/residency/DDV-concession.pdf
- www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/documents/residency/dv-victims-settlement.pdf

It may also be the case that the local social work department has a duty to provide accommodation and support (for instance under the Children (Scotland) Act 1995).

Training

Contact the Scottish Government: Eileen.Flanagan@scotland.gov.uk or the Forced Marriage Unit: www.fco.gov.uk/forcedmarriage

Advice and information

Practitioner guidance: www.scotland.gov.uk/ForcedMarriagePractice

Statutory guidance: www.scotland.gov.uk/ForcedMarriageStatutory

Forced Marriage Unit: www.fco.gov.uk/forcedmarriage

National support agencies and other useful contacts

This is not exhaustive but those listed can provide signposting to local services.

Government departments

Forced Marriage Unit

Joint Foreign & Commonwealth Office/Home Office service

www.fco.gov.uk/forcedmarriage

Helpline: 020 7008 0151 (Mon-Fri: 9am–5pm)

Email: fmf@fco.gov.uk

For emergencies out of hours, phone 020 7008 1500 and ask for the Global Response Centre.

Foreign and Commonwealth Office

Represents the United Kingdom's government overseas

www.fco.gov.uk

British High Commissions and Embassies

For details of all British High Commissions and Embassies see online at

www.fco.gov.uk/en/travel-and-living-abroad/find-an-embassy

Office of the Immigration Services Commissioner

Responsible for regulating immigration advisers

<http://oisc.homeoffice.gov.uk>

UK Border Agency

Enforces immigration and customs regulations and considers applications for permission to enter or stay in the UK, and for citizenship and asylum.

www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk

Law and rights

Citizen's Advice Scotland

www.cas.org.uk

Ethnic Minorities Law Centre

Provides legal services exclusively to black and ethnic minority communities

www.emlc.org.uk

Family Law Association

Provides a point of reference for the public and for other organisations on family law issues

www.familylawassociation.org

Law Society of Scotland

Professional governing body for Scottish solicitors

www.lawscot.org.uk

Legal Services Agency Women and Young Persons' Department

Provides legal advice to refugee and migrant women and children (who have experienced gender-based violence) in Scotland. It also provides free second tier advice to professionals working in this area

www.lsa.org.uk

0141 353 3354

Scottish Children's Reporter Administration

National body focusing on children most at risk

www.scra.gov.uk

Scotland's Commissioner for Children and Young People

Promotes and safeguards the rights of children and young people

www.sccyp.org.uk

Scottish Courts

Single access point for information relating to civil and criminal courts within Scotland

www.scotcourts.gov.uk

Scottish Legal Aid Board

Responsible for managing legal aid in Scotland

www.slab.org.uk

Shelterline

Free, national telephone advice line staffed by trained housing advisers

scotland.shelter.org.uk

Helpline: 0808 800 4444

SOLAR

Society of local authority lawyers and administrators in Scotland

www.solarscotland.org.uk

Telephone interpreting

Telephone interpreting for emergency and non-emergency needs

Language Line

www.languageline.co.uk

The Big Word

www.thebigword.com

Help for victims

1. Women-specific

Shakti Women's Aid

Support, advocacy, refuge and information to all black minority ethnic women, children and young people experiencing and/or fleeing domestic abuse

www.shaktiedinburgh.co.uk

Helpline: 0131 475 2399

Hemat Gryffe Women's Aid

Support, advocacy, refuge and information for black minority ethnic women, children and young people experiencing and/or fleeing domestic abuse

www.hematgryffe.org.uk

Helpline: 0141 353 0859

Scottish Women's Aid

National organisation responding to domestic abuse against women, children and young people with network of local member groups providing direct services and refuge accommodation across Scotland

www.scottishwomensaid.org.uk

Business line: 0131 226 6606

Scottish Domestic Abuse helpline

For anyone who has experienced domestic abuse (signposting for male victims) including forced marriage

0800 027 1234 (24 hours)

Amina – the Muslim Women's Resource Centre

Works with Muslim women and promotes understanding of their needs

www.mwrc.org.uk

Helpline: 0808 801 0301

Saheliya

Supports the mental health and well-being of black and minority ethnic women in Edinburgh

www.saheliya.org.uk

TARA

Advice and support for women trafficked to Scotland for purposes of sexual exploitation

www.saferglasgow.com/services/reducing-violence-against-women/tara.aspx

0141 276 7730

2. Children-specific

Child Line

Counselling service for children and young people

www.childline.org.uk

Helpline: 0800 1111 (24 hours)

Scottish Child Law Centre

Free legal advice for and about children

www.sclc.org.uk

Helpline for under 18s: 0800 328 8970

Advice line: 0131 667 6333

Young Persons' Project at Legal Services Agency

Legal advice to refugee and migrant children up to age 25 and also free advice to professionals in this area

www.lsa.org.uk

0141 353 3354

3. Men-specific

Men in Mind

Edinburgh-based services for black and minority ethnic men who are experiencing issues that may affect their mental health and wellbeing

www.health-in-mind.org.uk/services/men-in-mind.html

Men's Advice Line

Confidential helpline for all men experiencing domestic abuse

www.mensadvice.org.uk

Helpline: 0808 801 0327

4. Other support

Migrant Helpline

Supports migrants in distress

www.migranthepline.org.uk

01304 203977

Scottish Refugee Council

Helps refugees and people seeking asylum in Scotland

www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk

Rape Crisis Scotland National Helpline

For anyone, male or female who has experienced sexual violence

www.rapecrisisscotland.org.uk

08088 01 03 02 (daily 6pm to midnight)

LGBT Domestic Abuse Project

Scotland's Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender domestic abuse project

www.lgbtdomesticabuse.org.uk

Samaritans

Confidential emotional support service

www.samaritans.org

Helpline: 08457 90 90 90 (24 hours)

If abroad see www.befrienders.org for nearest helpline

Victim Support Scotland

Provides emotional support, practical help and essential information to victims, witnesses and others affected by crime

www.victimsupportsco.org.uk

Helpline: 0845 603 9213

Voice UK

Supports people with learning disabilities and other vulnerable people who have experienced crime or abuse

www.voiceuk.org.uk

Helpline: 0808 802 8686

Credits:

Text: Shirley Henderson

Comments and assistance from:

John Fotheringham, Lindsays
Louise Johnson, Scottish Women's Aid
Legal Services Agency

2012