

Your right to choose who you marry and when you get married is protected by Australian law.

Information and support is available.



Confidential Advice

(02) 9211 5794

If you are worried that you may be forced into a marriage or you are in a forced marriage, professional advice and support is available. Contact us to get connected with services that can help you.



Accommodation & Case Management

(02) 9211 5794

The Freedom Partnership operates a Safe House for women (18 years +). Safe House clients are assigned a case manager who provides support for your future. You can be supported by a case manager even if you do not live at the Safe House.



Peer Support

(02) 9466 3573 or 0418 227 549

You are not alone – sometimes it can be helpful to meet someone who has been in a similar situation. Peers are supported by Freedom Partnership staff to listen to you and offer practical advice based on their own experiences.



Community Education & Training

(02) 9466 3573 or 0418 227 549

We offer training to service providers, community groups and schools to assist in identifying and responding to forced marriage. Workshops can be offered in various formats.

All email enquiries
endslavery@ae.salvationarmy.org

If you are in immediate danger of being married or taken overseas for marriage contact the Australian Federal Police

131 AFP or (02) 9277 0540

httsydneyenquiries@afp.gov.au

0408 819 925 (after 5pm & weekends)

Year 11 student Amira was worried her parents would send her overseas to be married in two weeks so she talked to her school counsellor. Amira thinks her parents have discovered that she has a girlfriend and they do not approve of same-sex relationships. The counsellor contacted The Freedom Partnership who met with Amira to discuss her options. Amira decided to contact Legal Aid NSW who assisted her to get a court order that stops her parents from taking her out of the country. Amira made a safety plan and knows she can contact Safe House staff to access youth accommodation, the police or others who can help if needed. Amira sees her Safe House case worker on a regular basis.

Examples of how The Freedom Partnership has helped

“Leaving my home and my family was a very difficult decision to make. I felt lonely and I didn’t know what I was doing. But I knew I owed it to myself to have a life that I am proud of and that makes me happy. I still miss my family and hope that one day they will be different. But I know I will be okay if they are not.”

-Peer Mentor

The Australian Federal Police contacted The Freedom Partnership after meeting with Nisha. Nisha was unsure about what would happen if she didn’t marry the man her parents chose for her. Nisha met with a peer who shared her own experience of being in the same situation. The peer understood Nisha’s family relationships first hand and the difficulty of going against the wishes of her parents, siblings and others in the community. Nisha decided to leave home and was supported by a Safe House case manager to move into youth accommodation. Nisha says, “being able to meet with a peer was a turning point; I was able to see that I could have a good life even if I didn’t do what my parents wanted. It was reassuring to know I wasn’t alone and that many of the negative things my parents said would happen, didn’t happen.”

19 year old Yasmeen contacted The Freedom Partnership via the Domestic Violence Line. Yasmeen was forced to marry her husband on a family holiday overseas the previous year. Her family was expecting her to sponsor him to come to Australia and leave her job to have children after his arrival. Freedom Partnership staff arranged for Yasmeen to get free legal advice and meet Safe House staff to discuss her situation. Yasmeen decided to live at the Safe House, withdraw the immigration sponsorship and leave her part-time job. Yasmeen has enrolled in a full-time TAFE course, has a new part-time job and is planning to move in with a friend she met at school. She plans to go to university.

