




Four measures against forced marriage

- ▶ Minorities counsellors
- ▶ Integration counsellors
- ▶ Competence team combating forced marriage
- ▶ Support for awareness-raising activities



Combating forced marriage

With its broad focus on combating forced marriage, the action plan against forced marriage (2008 – 2011) involves eight ministries and their underlying agencies. The Directorate of Integration and Diversity (IMDi), which reports to the Ministry of Labour and Social Inclusion, has been given the responsibility for four of the 40 measures.

▶ Minorities counsellors in upper secondary schools

Thirty minorities counsellors are working at selected upper secondary schools in eight counties: Oslo, Akershus, Østfold, Buskerud, Vest-Agder, Rogaland, Hordaland and Sør-Trøndelag.

The minorities counsellors shall:

- ▶ Help pupils with minority backgrounds complete and pass upper secondary education and training
- ▶ Contribute to closer cooperation between the school and public assistance services and NGOs
- ▶ Provide individual counselling and follow-up of pupils
- ▶ Establish pupil and parent networks aiming to prevent forced marriage
- ▶ Raise competence in this field in upper and lower secondary schools



The minorities counsellors are working at the following schools:

- ▶ **Oslo:** Sofienberg, Ulsrud, Sandaker, Hellerud, Holtet, Stovner, Sogn, Etterstad, Manglerud, Oslo handelsgymnasium, Elvebakken, Bjørnholt (19 counsellors)
- ▶ **Akershus:** Rud, Lillestrøm, Lørenskog, Dønski (2 counsellors)
- ▶ **Østfold:** Greåker, Glemmen, Fredrik II (2 counsellors)
- ▶ **Rogaland:** Bergeland, Sola (1 counsellor)
- ▶ **Hordaland:** Bergen katedralskole, Årstad (2 counsellors)
- ▶ **Sør-Trøndelag:** Gerard Schønings and Tiller (1 counsellor)
- ▶ **Vest-Agder:** Kvadraturen (1 counsellor)
- ▶ **Buskerud:** Åssiden (2 counsellors)



Section 1a of the Marriage Act

"Women and men have the same right to choose a spouse freely. They shall contract the marriage of their own free will and by their own consent."

▶ Integration counsellors at foreign service missions

Six integration counsellors are employed at selected foreign service missions in regions where forced marriages occur. This flexible outreach service can be deployed wherever the need is greatest.

The integration counsellors shall:

- ▶ Raise competence and increase the case-processing capacity at the foreign-service missions for cases concerning forced marriage and other family-related issues
- ▶ Improve knowledge about the country of origin in the Norwegian administration
- ▶ Develop networks and cooperate with agencies etc. who can help to combat forced marriages in the countries where they serve
- ▶ Impart information about Norwegian society to persons who are considering living in Norway, including information about marriage and family patterns, traditions and laws
- ▶ Work on changing attitudes to forced marriage and related fields in particular geographical regions



The integration counsellors are based at the following embassies:

- ▶ **Sri-Lanka, Colombo** (covers Sri-Lanka, Bangladesh and India)
- ▶ **Marocco, Rabat** (covers Marocco and other relevant countries in North Africa)
- ▶ **Turkey, Ankara** (covers Turkey and Iran)
- ▶ **Pakistan, Islamabad** (covers Pakistan and Afghanistan)
- ▶ **Jordan, Amman** (covers Iraq, Syria, Jordan and other relevant countries in the Middle East)
- ▶ **Kenya, Nairobi** (covers East Africa and the Horn of Africa)


The work performed by the minorities and integration counsellors focuses on both individuals and systems and is based on a preventive perspective.

Read more about the Government's measures against forced marriage

www.imdi.no/tvangsekteskap

www.tvangsekteskap.no

www.ung.no



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► **The competence team combating forced marriage**

The competence team consists of representatives from IMDi (Directorate of Integration and Diversity), the UDI (Directorate of Immigration), POD (the Directorate of Police) and Bufdir (Norwegian Directorate for Children, Youth and Family Affairs).

The competence team is an advisory body for the first-line service working with specific forced-marriage cases. The team also works with similar problems connected to honour-related issues and violence when the forced marriage issue is involved. The team helps to raise competence through presentations, lectures and information material. The team covers all of Norway.

Since its inception in 2004, the team has received inquiries relating to the forced marriage issue in Norway that have referred to more than 20 countries.

The competence team can be contacted by e-mail kompetanseteamet@imdi.no or on telephone +47 80 90 50.



► Funding the awareness-raising activities of NGOs

IMDi manages a subsidy scheme where NGOs may apply for project funding or funding of specific assignments. This scheme has an annual budgetary framework of NOK 10 million.

The aim of the funding is to prevent forced marriage by countering oppressive attitudes and practices in the relevant environments, thus strengthening the opportunities of the young persons in question to make independent choices.

Funding is granted for preventive or awareness-raising activities, including information measures, network building and other forms of dialogue and contact with young persons with immigrant backgrounds and their parents.

For more information see www.imdi.no/tilskudd

International Covenant on Civilian and Political rights, Article 23

"No marriage shall be entered into without
the free and full consent of the intending spouses."

IMDi

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