

**Press Release**

13 December 2011



## Claire Perry MP Welcomes the Government's consultation on criminalising Forced Marriage

Claire Perry, the Conservative MP for the Devizes Constituency, welcomed the launch of a Government consultation on the criminalisation of Forced Marriage.

This follows the announcement on 10 October 2011 by the Prime Minister, David Cameron, that the Government would criminalise the breach of Forced Marriage Prevention Orders. These orders block forced marriages from going ahead and protect potential victims.

Commenting, Claire said:

'I am delighted that the Coalition Government is examining how we can criminalise forced marriage. We have tolerated this unacceptable crime for far too long and it must be stopped.'

'I fully support the tough stance of David Cameron and Theresa May are taking against forced marriage'.

ENDS

### **Notes to Editors**

Although many cases of forced marriage go unreported:

- The Government's Forced Marriage Unit gave advice or support on 1,735 instances in 2010 alone.

- The youngest victim of forced marriage was just 12 years old, and the oldest 73.
- In 2010 the Forced Marriage Unit gave active assistance to 469 cases across the country.
- On 10 October 2011 David Cameron announced that the breach of a Forced Marriage Protection Order would be criminalized. He also announced that he had asked the Home Secretary to consult on whether forcing someone to marry should be a criminal offence. His speech is available on the Number 10 website (<http://www.number10.gov.uk/news/prime-ministers-speech-on-immigration/>).
- On 12 December 2011 the Home Office launched a consultation. Further information is available on their website (<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/publications/about-us/consultations/forced-marriage/>).
- The Forced Marriage Act 2007 allows courts to issue Forced Marriage Prevention Orders to protect those who have been forced into marriage and to block forced marriages. 339 orders have been issued between November 2008 and June 2011.

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