

# Strong families make strong daughters



"We are proud of our daughters!"

*englisch*

## Dear parents,

You must be very proud of your children, both your daughters and your sons; proud of their knowledge, capabilities and goals. As their parents you only want the best for them: safety and security, a family, friends, health and happiness.

With this brochure we would like to show you ways in which you can help your daughters lead a life based on their own choices.

Your  
TERRE DES FEMMES  
Team



I am a mother of two and I work to make sure that girls can lead a life based on their own choices.

Arranged marriage at an early age can have a strong negative impact on the relationship between parents and children.

We need to start listening to our children's desires and dreams and encourage them to pursue them.

Every girl has the right to choose if she wants to get married and who she wants to marry!

Strong families have strong daughters who make their own decisions!



Nazan Eckes

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**»All human beings  
are born free and  
equal in dignity and rights.«**

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Article 1 Universal Declaration of Human Rights



In Germany every person has the right  
to make their own life choices.  
Men and women are equal before the law.  
Women have the right to choose  
which profession they wish to pursue.





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## No-one has the right to force a woman into marriage. Not even her own family.

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The following types of marriage are unlawful in Germany:

### Early marriage

- marriage before the civil registrar before the age of 18
- religious or traditional marriage ceremonies before the age of 18 (even if the girl has consented)



Anyone coercing another person under the age of 18 into a forced marriage may be punished with a fine of 5,000€.

### Forced marriage

- Marriage against a girl's/woman's consent under duress/by inflicting violence
- kidnapping with the intent to facilitate forced marriage abroad/in the family's country of origin



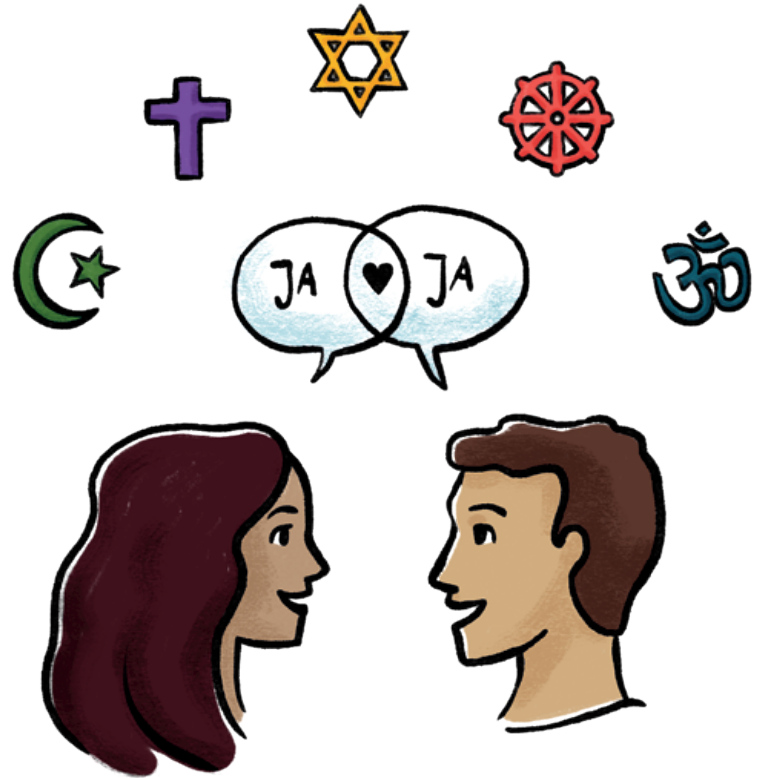
Forced marriage is punishable with imprisonment of up to five years even if the forced marriage was arranged or takes place abroad (§237 StGB [German Criminal Code]).

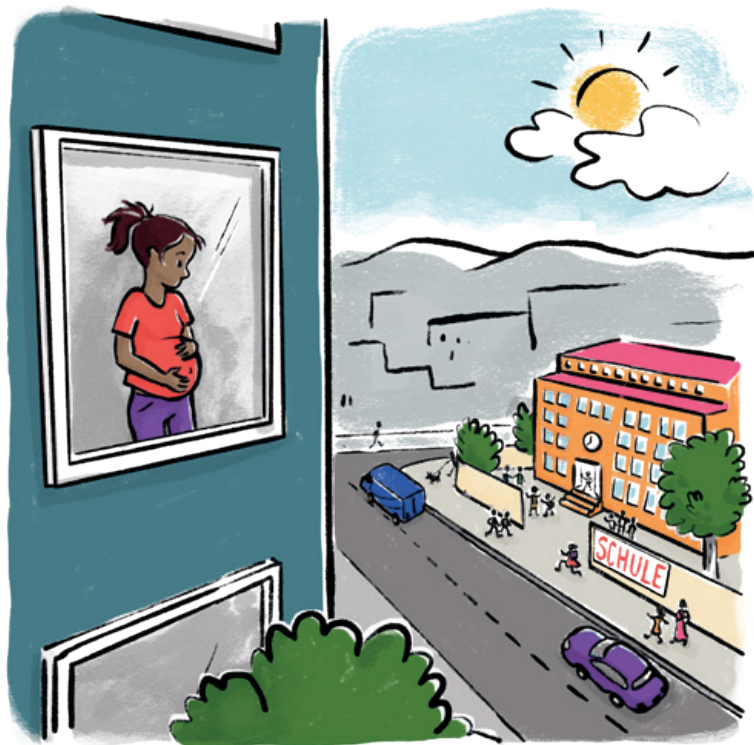
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**In all religious traditions  
women and men  
have the right to choose  
their spouse freely.**

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That is why there can be  
no religious justification for  
early or forced marriage.





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## Girls and women who enter an early or forced marriage often experience violence as part of their marriage.

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They live in fear and suffer from depression. Getting pregnant at a very young age can be dangerous for both mother and baby.

Once they enter an early marriage or forced marriage, many girls and young women are forced to leave school.

A good education is a solid financial basis for your daughter. In Germany women are able to have a family and work at the same time.

»» Early and forced marriage is an enormous burden for children and may spiral into a trauma that affects generation after generation!««

Sajjad  
victim of forced marriage

Your daughter loves and respects you. Forced marriage can have a negative impact on the relationship between a daughter and her parents. Some daughters leave their family after being asked to enter a forced marriage. Your daughter really wants to remain a member of your family.



I loved my family, my parents and my siblings more than anything.

When they wanted to marry me off against my will, I could not spend another minute at home.

I no longer live with them, and I miss them every day. The worst thing for me is that they will never get to meet my children or learn how I am doing now.



Voice of a victim of forced marriage

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**You want your daughter to be well. Strong and confident families have strong, free daughters. You can make a difference!**

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**This is why we recommend that you: Speak to your daughter. Try to put yourself in your daughter's shoes. Ask your daughter what she wants.**

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## **You are not alone!**

Seek help from your family  
or talk to a person who  
works for a counselling service.

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**The following services are available  
if you need help or support:**

**National help hotline for women**

**08000 116 016**

(available 24 hours, free of charge, and  
you have the option to remain anonymous)

**BIG (advisory service for women  
subjected to domestic violence):**

**030 611 03 00**

(available daily between 8 am and 11 pm,  
free of charge, and you have the option  
to remain anonymous)

**National help hotline for men:**

**0800 123 99 00**

(Monday to Friday, free of charge, and  
you have the option to remain anonymous)

National advisory service:

**[www.zwangsheirat.de](http://www.zwangsheirat.de)**





# An educational leaflet on early and forced marriage

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Gefördert durch die

**AKTION  
MENSCH**



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