

## About Respond

Respond is a specialist organisation that aims to help people with learning difficulties who have experienced trauma and abuse. We provide psychotherapy for people with learning disabilities and advice and support for their families and supporters. We offer training for carers and professional and education for people with learning disabilities. Respond advises generic services on ways to make their services more accessible to people with learning disabilities. We encourage services to consider the psychological impact of living with learning disabilities and undertake research and disseminate our findings.



To find out more please contact



Luthfa Khan, Project Lead



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## The Respond My Life, My Marriage Project



Do you know someone who  
is being pressured or  
forced into a marriage?

Challenging the practice of forcing marriage  
on people with learning disabilities

For more information visit  
[www.respond.org.uk](http://www.respond.org.uk)



## What is forced marriage?

A forced marriage is when one or both spouses do not consent to the marriage or when consent is extracted under duress. Duress can include physical and/or emotional pressure.

**If you or someone you know is being forced into a marriage and you would like help, contact us on:**

**020 7874 5486 / 07482 668 132**

**Luthfa.khan@respond.org.uk**



## About the Project

The Respond **My Life, My Marriage** Project will work with men and women with learning disabilities who have experienced forced marriage or are at risk of being pressured into marriage.

Research has shown that children and adults with learning disabilities are more prone to abuse. They are less likely to be protected by official safeguarding in communities where professionals may be concerned about appearing culturally insensitive and hold back from involvement. Research also indicates that the incidence of forced marriages involving people with learning disabilities is vastly under-reported. These cases can appear very different from the standard image of forced marriage.

**My Life, My Marriage** will raise awareness of the forced marriage of people with learning disabilities in all its various forms. We will address this by working proactively to prevent cases. Respond will provide specialist training to professional and community leaders and also offer advocacy support to victims of forced marriage and their support networks.

## What we offer

### Advocacy

Provide advocacy and signposting to people with learning disabilities and their support networks where there have been issues around Forced Marriage

### Training

We deliver training to professionals, community leaders and raise general awareness.

### Easy Read

We provide an easy to read booklet and website about forced marriage.

### Policy & Campaigning

We aim to raise greater awareness of these issues among policy makers. We campaign for improved quality, accessibility and provision of support to victims/survivors of sexual and/or gender-based abuse.

### Partnership Work

We work in partnership with like minded organisation such as Beverly Lewis House, Hopscotch, The Forced Marriage Unit, Southall Black Sisters, The Sharan Project and others.

### Steering Group

Our expert advisers will oversee the strategic objectives and provide guidance as the project develops.