



TAHIRIH
JUSTICE
CENTER®

Protecting Immigrant Women and Girls Fleeing Violence

National Network to Prevent Forced Marriage

Organization Sign-up Form

Forced marriage is a pernicious global problem threatening the freedom, safety, health and education of women and girls. UNICEF estimates that in developing countries, over 60 million women now aged 20-24 were married as girls. Forced marriage is also a problem in the United States.

The reasons for forced marriages are complex and varied, particularly in an American context and in immigrant communities. Parents may regard a forced marriage as a way to prevent their daughter from becoming too Americanized, protect the family's honor, gain status, or achieve economic security. Whatever the rationale, the result may subject the woman or girl to severe and sustained harm, including: domestic abuse, marital rape, and other forms of violence.

Defining "Forced Marriage"

A forced marriage is one that takes place without the full and free consent of one or both parties. A lack of consent may be caused by a variety of factors, including that an individual is:

- Younger than the legal age to marry
- Subject to incapacity or disability
- Subject to force, fraud, or coercion

It is not arranged marriage, in which families may take the lead, but the ultimate choice to marry remains with the individual.

The National Network to Prevent Forced Marriage is a coalition of advocates and allies from around the United States dedicated to creating a coordinated national response to the problem of forced marriage in the United States.

Statement of Vision: The purpose of the National Network to Prevent Forced Marriage is to:

- better understand the scope and severity of forced marriage in the United States;
- raise awareness about the problem;
- encourage and empower individuals facing or fleeing forced marriages to seek help;
- build a network of service providers, community advocates, and government agencies with the necessary tools and expertise to help individuals at risk;
- ultimately, to reduce the incidence of forced marriage in the United States.

Membership: Please fill in the information requested below, sign, and submit this form via email at FMI@tahirih.org or fax to 571-282-6162. By signing this form, you are agreeing with the Network Statement of Vision and for your organization or office/agency to be identified as a Network Member.

Webinars: The Tahirih Justice Center will be hosting quarterly webinars for shared learning on selected topics for Network Members. These webinars will provide advocates and allies with opportunities for continued education and training, coordination, and discussion of legal and policy proposals and other efforts to improve the protections, support and

assistance available to individuals facing forced marriage in the United States.

Membership Sign-Up:

About the Organization:	
Organization name:	Director's name (if different from contact person):
Mailing address:	Website:
Organization email:	Organization phone number:
About the Contact Person:	
Name:	Position:
Email:	Phone number:

On behalf of my organization, I have read and agree with the Vision Statement of the National Network to Prevent Forced Marriage.

Signature

Date

Printed Name