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LEGAL RESPONSES TO FORCED MARRIAGE IN THE UK: REFLECTIONS FROM JUSTICE SYSTEM PROFESSIONALS

National Network to Prevent Forced Marriage Webinar

Webinar hosted by:
Casey Benger
Forced Marriage Initiative Project Manager
Esmie Sanchez
Policy and Strategy
Dina Baky
Forced Marriage Initiative Project Associate

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MEET OUR DISTINGUISHED PANELISTS

Anne-Marie Hutchinson OBE, QC (Hon)
Rashid Begum
Nazir Afzal OBE

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ANNE-MARIE HUTCHINSON OBE, QC (HON)

Anne-Marie is a renowned family attorney with expertise in forced marriage and overseas-related cases, especially in international family law, international custody disputes, and child abduction. She is also a Governor within the International Academy of Family Lawyers (IAFL), a worldwide association of practicing lawyers who are recognized by their peers as the most experienced and skilled family law specialists in their respective countries, and has made forced marriage a focus issue for the IAFL.
NAZIR AFZAL OBE

Nazir Afzal was the Director of the United Kingdom’s Crown Prosecution Service from 2011-2015. As one of 13 chief crown prosecutors in Britain, he oversaw 100,000 prosecutions a year and managed 800 lawyers and paralegals in the Crown Prosecution Service’s North West Area. As the operational and policy lead for child abuse, hate crime, and violence against women, Nazir made history as the first Muslim to be appointed to such a position and was Britain’s most senior lawyer within the Crown Prosecution Service. During his time with the Crown Prosecution Service, Nazir was the operational and policy lead for child abuse, hate crime, and violence against women.

Nazir is a champion for women’s rights and helped to set up a national hotline in the UK for women at risk of being forced into marriage. Currently, he is Chief Executive of the Scottish Police Authority, representing staff interests.

RASHID BEGUM

Rashid Begum is a survivor of “honour” based violence and attempted forced marriage who has dedicated both her professional and private life to ensuring that others at risk are protected. A former police officer and a qualified lawyer, Rashid now serves as a solicitor for the police in the UK. Rashid has been an expert and a key figure in government investigations into forced marriage, honoring violence, and female genital mutilation. She has also committed much of her personal time to self-funded work supporting victims and survivors, delivering training, and raising awareness about forced marriage. Rashid was awarded Special Recognition as an Inspirational Survivor of Honour Based Violence by the Iranian and Kurdish Women's Rights Organization this year.

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