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RESPOND)
from hurting to healing

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services coordinator

- **The impact of stigma surrounding autistic people in ethnic communities**

Tamana

- <https://youtu.be/E2nwOkwF0Dk>

Tamana clip 2

- <https://youtu.be/QYX2-RvmueE>

Saffron

<https://youtu.be/sXOI2ICdNYo>

Objectives

- Services provided at Respond
- Autism and Learning Disabilities
- Stigma of Learning Disabilities in BME communities
- Understanding the issues around FM with people with Learning Disability
- Frequency
- Motives prompting Forced Marriage
- Consequences
- Law & legislation
- Safeguarding
- Forced Marriage Education Programme

Services provided at Respond

- My Life My Marriage Project
- Survivors Service
- Family Support Services
- Circles of Support and Accountability
- Young People's Service
- Forensic Service
- Independent Sexual Advisors

Number of cases FMU gave advise/support to by **Country**

Focus country	Numbers	Percentages
Pakistan	539	44
Bangladesh	89	7
India	75	6
Somalia	34	3
Afghanistan	21	2
Iraq	17	1
Sudan	15	1
Saudi Arabia	12	1
Egypt	9	1
Sri Lanka	9	1
Morocco	8	1
Romania	8	1
Kenya	7	1
Turkey	7	1
Iran	6	0
52 other countries	109	9
UK (domestic only)	175	14
Unknown	80	7
Total	1,220	100

1. Source: Forced Marriage Unit; Foreign and Commonwealth Office

Number of cases the FMU gave advise/support to by Regions

UK region	Numbers	Percentages
East of England	80	7
East Midlands	47	4
London	263	22
North East	18	1
North West	122	10
Northern Ireland ²	<5	+
Scotland	22	2
South East	107	9
South West	35	3
West Midlands	165	14
Wales	25	2
Yorkshire and the Humber	109	9
Unknown	225	18
Total	1,220	100

1. Source: Forced Marriage Unit; Foreign and Commonwealth Office

2. '+' indicates percentage not given due to small number of cases

Motives

- Obtaining a carer for the person with learning disabilities
- Physical assistance for ageing parents
- Obtaining financial security for the person with a learning disability
- A belief that marriage is a right of passage
- For finances or accommodation or even for passports or visas.

Possible Warning Signs

- Person talking about marriage, jewellery or wedding clothes
- Family member raising concerns that a relative may be, or has been forced into a marriage, or informed a professional that their relative is to be married
- Family member asking frontline professionals to sign a passport application form or visa immigration form
- Being taken away from school or day centre, or out of the country, without explanation
- Change in emotional or behavioral presentation, for example , becoming anxious, depressed, frightened and emotionally withdrawn or exhibiting joy or excitement

Consequences of Forced Marriage

- Abandonment (Positions of vulnerability)
- Experience abuse from their in-law's
- The spouse with a learning disability will face more difficulties should they wish to leave the marriage
- Exploiting the finances of the person with learning disabilities
- Physical, emotional and sexual assault

Law & Legislation

- From the 16th June 2014, it was a criminal offence to force someone to marry as well as breaching a Forced Marriage Protection Order in the Anti-Social Behavior, Crime and Policing Act 2014.
- Forcing someone to marry can result in a sentence of up to 7 years in prison
- Disobeying and breach of a Forced Marriage Protection Order can result in a sentence of up to 5 years in prison

A checklist with a pen pointing to it. The checklist has several items, some of which are marked with red checkmarks. The pen is a black ballpoint pen with a red tip. The background is a light gray gradient.

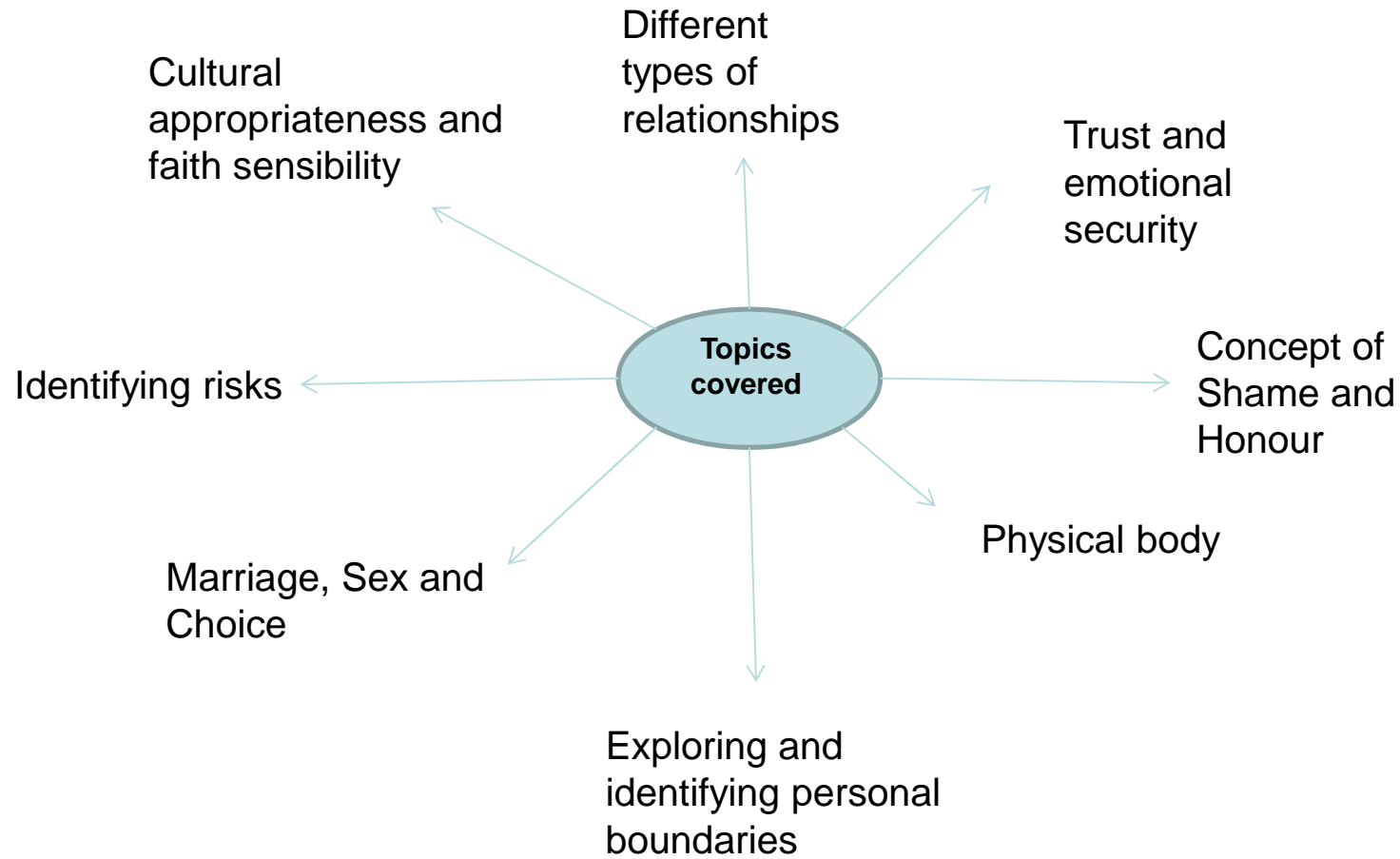
Best Practice

- Confidentiality
- Consider whether a communication specialist is needed
- Interview in a private and secure place
- Undertake risk assessment
- Explain and discuss all options
- Recognise and respect individual's wishes
- Safeguarding
- Speak to trained specialist

FM Education Programme

To explore with the client their:

- Recognition and understanding of the types of relationship he/she has known and are likely to encounter in life
- Recognition of marriage and what it entails
- Choice and human rights
- Cultural perspectives affecting their relationships and how they live their life
- To give the client opportunity to develop their awareness and understanding of relationships, sex and marriage.



Remember the

'One Chance' Rule



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