

Women's engagement

from the Ministers for Women

 HM Government

NEWSFLASH

More help for victims of violence

Forced marriage to be made a criminal offence

On Friday 8 June, Prime Minister David Cameron announced that forcing someone to marry will become a criminal offence in England and Wales. The decision to create a specific offence of forced marriage follows a 12-week consultation which took views from the public, victims, charities and frontline agencies. Prime Minister David Cameron said:

“Forced marriage is abhorrent and is little more than slavery. To force anyone into marriage against their will is simply wrong and this is why we have taken decisive action to make it illegal.”

Read more [here](#).

UK signs convention on combating violence against women

Also on Friday, Deputy Prime Minister Nick Clegg announced that the government has signed up to the Council of Europe's convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence (CAHVIO). Signing the convention reflects the government's continuing commitment to tackling violence against women and girls. Read more [here](#).

Angelina Jolie supports new UK initiative to prevent sexual violence as a weapon of war

On 29 May, Foreign Secretary William Hague announced a UK initiative on preventing sexual violence in conflict. The initiative forms part of the UK's forthcoming Presidency of the G8 in 2013. It includes the establishment of a dedicated UK team devoted to combating and preventing sexual violence in conflict.

The initiative was launched to an invited audience of political and civil society figures at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, followed by an advance screening of “In the Land of Blood and Honey.” The film's director and Special Envoy to the UN High Commissioner on Refugees, Ms Angelina Jolie, attended along with members of the cast.

To find out more about this new initiative read [here](#).

Read Foreign Secretary William Hague's [speech](#) about the new initiative.