

**New laws on age of marriage and forced marriage in England and Wales**

The Marriage and Civil Partnership (Minimum Age) Act 2022 is due to come into force on 27 February 2023. Under the existing law in England and Wales, people can enter a marriage or civil partnership at the age of 18, or at 16-17 with parental or judicial consent. The Act will raise the minimum age of marriage and civil partnership to 18 in England and Wales, removing all consent requirements.

The Act also extends existing forced marriage legislation so that it will be an offence to carry out any conduct for the purpose of causing a child to marry before their eighteenth birthday, even if violence, threats or another form of coercion are not used.