

Justice Committee**Supplementary Legislative Consent Memorandum on the Anti-social
Behaviour, Crime and Policing Bill****Written submission from Fife Domestic and Sexual Abuse Partnership**

Fife Domestic and Sexual Abuse Partnership share the concerns of Scottish Women's Aid, Hemat Gryffe Women's Aid and Shakti Women's Aid that, unlike England and Wales, this step to criminalise forced marriage in Scotland has been undertaken with no public consultation, or discussion with the expert organisations working to support those at risk and whose support the Government usually obtains in devising appropriate policy and legal responses and guidance in this area.

There is a clear indication from previous public consultations that there was no wish for a criminal offence to be introduced in Scotland for a range of reasons.

The LCM procedure should not be used in respect of the provisions on forced marriage, in view of the quite significant change proposed. This is not a "minor tweak" to existing legislation and should be afforded further detailed consideration by all interested parties. 18 days (14 working days) to undertake such a consultation is wholly inadequate.

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Co-ordinator
29 November 2013