



**Sexual and reproductive health and rights today
and tomorrow**

*ICRH celebrates 20 years of SRHR research, training and
advocacy*

Thursday 4 December 2014, Het Pand, Gent (Belgium)

Symposium on “Policies related to forced marriages in Europe”

In collaboration with RHEA, Centre for Gender and Diversity, Free University Brussels

In Europe, forced marriage gained public attention due to some dramatic cases of honour killings following forced marriages. Subsequently policies have been developed, including a specific criminal law on forced marriage that was adopted in 2007. Translating these policies into practice, and vice versa, is facing several challenges that can jeopardise adequate care for those at risk of forced marriages.

Our symposium aims at discussing how to address these challenges in order to improve prevention and protection of forced marriages and to enhance the provision of services in European countries. This symposium brings together the leading academics and NGOs that work in this field.

We will explore current policies related to forced marriages in some EU countries and provide suggestions for improvement.

Keynote lecture

14:00-14.30: *Associate Prof Dr Aisha Gill* (University of Roehampton - Dept. Social Science, UK): **Criminalisation or ‘multiculturalism without culture?’ Comparing European socio-legal policy interventions to tackling forced marriages**

Presentations from EU countries

14.30-14.50: *Drs Alexia Sabbe* (Ghent University - ICRH, Belgium): **An analysis of legislation and political measures in Europe**

14.50-15.10: *Prof Dr Noelia Igareda* (Universitat Autònoma Barcelona - Faculty of Law, Spain): **Legal obstacles and opportunities to tackle FM in Spain: findings from the MATRIFOR study**

15.10-15.30: *Dr Anja Bredal* (Institute for Social Research, Norway): **An analysis of Scandinavian policies on forced marriages**

15.30-15.45: *Coffee break*

15.45-16.05: *Maria Rosa Lotti* (Le Onde Onlus Palermo, Italy): **Legal measures in Italy on forced marriages: findings from a research on forced marriages in Sicily**

Panel discussion

16.05-16.30: **How should forced marriages be tackled in Europe?**, moderated by *Prof Dr Gily Coene* (Free University Brussels - Centre for Gender, Diversity and Intersectionality, Belgium), with all above speakers as participants