

# **Handbook on Remedies for Forced Marriage**

## **Project Description**

**INTERIGHTS** is working on a handbook for use by lawyers, human rights and women's rights organisations and individuals concerned with the issue of forced marriage. It will review the scope, nature and extent of available rights and remedies relating to forced marriage in Bangladesh, India, Pakistan and the UK by working closely with leading experts on the issue.

The handbook will better inform and equip lawyers and activists to provide accurate and effective legal advice and representation in cases of forced marriage, which occur in Bangladesh, India, Pakistan and the UK. It will also provide necessary background information to other professionals -- such as the police and consular officials -- to enable them to provide more effective assistance.

Specifically, the handbook will provide information on the legal systems obtaining in each of these countries, as well as on the law and procedures relating to habeas corpus petitions, applications for enforcement of fundamental rights, criminal prosecutions for aspects of forced marriage, and remedies available under family laws. In particular, it will consider the international dimensions of such cases, where foreign nationals are abducted from the UK to Bangladesh, India and Pakistan for forced marriage. It will also provide information on the social, cultural and religious context of the practice and contacts of relevant organisations and individuals who are able to provide support to victims in Bangladesh, India and Pakistan respectively.

This project is funded by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and the Handbook is scheduled to be launched in the UK in Autumn 2006.