



ROYAL NORWEGIAN MINISTRY
OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL INCLUSION

***Trans-national marriages perceived as a problem:
Legislative measures in Norway***

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Relevant legislation:

- *The Immigration Act of 1988 (under revision)*
- *The Marriage Act of 1991*
- *The Penal Code of 1902*

Marriage: residence permits are given to

⇒ A spouse or registered partner (hetero/homo)

⇒ Cohabitants to years prior to the application

⇒ Persons intending to marry (fiancé permit)

To contract a marriage

- *Both parties must be present*
- *Marriage must be entered into freely*
- *18 years minimum age (dispensations down to 16)*
- *New proposals:*
a marriage entered into abroad may not be recognized if
 - * *one of the parties is under 18*
 - * *the marriage was entered by proxy*
 - * *one of the parties was already married*

Forced marriages

- *Difficult distinction arranged vs forced*
- *Migration strategy?*
- *To force someone can lead to 6 years in prison*
- *Mandatory prosecution*
- *Lack of statistics*
- *Family reunification may be denied*
- *Interviews of the sponsor*
- *Financial resources when under 23 years*
- *Annulment*
- *Direct divorce (proposed amendment)*

”Mail-order brides”

- *Trans-national marriages most frequent in the majority population*
- *Thai women in prostitution*
- *Men with history of violence – multiple marriages*
- *Settlement permit granted victims*
- *Visa and/or residence permit may be refused*

Marriage of convenience (pro forma)

- *The motive is to evade the immigration regulations*
- *The parties must live together*
- *Residence application can be denied on suspicion*

