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## U.K. Muslim lawyers form plan to root out forced marriages

News Services  
Published: Thursday, June 12, 2008

LONDON -- British Muslim lawyers have come up with a plan to root out forced marriage in their community, in a report published Thursday. The Muslim Arbitration Tribunal says British Muslims must take matters into their own hands to tackle the "crisis" of forced marriages between British citizens and spouses from South Asia, often used as a back-door way for them to gain entry to Britain.

MAT claimed that more than 70 per cent of marriages in the Muslim community involving a foreign spouse have some element of coercion or force. Marriages without consent, or people refusing them, have led to suicides and honour killings. MAT has proposed a voluntary system whereby a British Muslim seeking to bring a foreign spouse into the country would provide testimony before a panel of Muslim judges.

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