

# True Vision Aire – UK Marriage Survey

## **BACKGROUND:**

**We are interviewing 500 Muslim women across the UK anonymously to find out more about how and where they got married. This research will help form part of a new Channel 4 documentary which is looking at the 1949 Marriage Act.**

**Please record an answer for every question that is applicable to your participant:**

1. Are you a Muslim woman and have you been married in the UK? **YES / NO**

**If YES continue to 2: If No, then this person is not suitable for this survey, so end here**

2. Please indicate your age group by circling one:

**Less than 18**

**18-24**

**25-34**

**35-44**

**45-54**

**55 and over**

**Continue to 3**

3. How many times have you been married?

**1) Once**

**2) Twice**

**3) Three times**

**4) More than 3 times**

**Continue to 4**

**The following questions relate to your most recent marriage in the UK. If you are not currently married or you have had more than one marriage in the UK, please answer regarding this marriage, even if it has now ended.**

4. Did you have a Nikah ceremony **YES / NO**

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If YES continue to 5: If NO jump to 21

5. Where did this take place?

- 5) Mosque
- 6) Home
- 7) Hotel/restaurant
- 8) Wedding hall
- 9) Other

Continue to 6

6. Who performed your Nikah?

- 1) Imam
- 2) Mosque official
- 3) Family friend
- 4) Community elder
- 5) Other

Continue to 7

7. Does Is it your understanding that your Nikah marriage alone mean that you are legally married under British law?

- 1) Yes
- 2) No
- 3) Don't know

If Yes jump to 9: otherwise continue to 8

8. How does a Nikah marriage performed in the UK become officially and legally recognized as a marriage?

- 1) Using the Nikah certificate to register the marriage at the Registrar's office
- 2) Only by having a civil marriage in addition (a marriage ceremony performed by an official Registrar authorized under British law)
- 3) Other method (Please state)
- 4) Don't know

(Circle all that apply)

Continue to 9

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9. Did you also have a civil marriage ceremony, performed by an official Registrar, in addition to the Nikah ceremony?

- 1) Yes
- 2) No
- 3) Don't know

If YES, go to 10; If NO or DON'T KNOW jump to 12

10. When did your civil marriage ceremony take place?

- 1) After the Nikah
- 2) Before the Nikah
- 3) At the same time

Continue to 11

11. Where did your civil marriage take place?

- 1) A mosque
- 2) Registry Office/Town Hall
- 3) A banqueting hall/hotel
- 4) Somewhere else

Jump to 15

12. If you have not had a civil marriage, did/do you plan to have one in the future? YES/NO

If YES continue to 13; If NO jump to 14

13. Why did you delay or are you delaying your civil marriage? (circle all that apply)

- 1) Not thought about it
- 2) Planning to do so after a year or so
- 3) Wanted to make sure the marriage was going to work first
- 4) My husband does not want a civil marriage
- 5) Wanted to keep the families happy
- 6) Other

Jump to 15

14. Why do or did you plan not to have a civil marriage?

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- 1) Happy the way we are
- 2) Husband doesn't want to
- 3) Family don't want us to
- 4) Think the Islamic marriage part is most important
- 5) Don't want to have to share assets if we divorce
- 6) Other.....

**Continue to 15**

15. Do/did you want your marriage to be legally valid under British law? **YES / NO / Don't know**

**Continue to 16**

16. Are you aware that without a legal civil ceremony performed by an official Registrar in the UK, couples with a UK Nikah are not protected by the law in the way that other married couples are? **YES / NO**

**Continue to 17**

17. Around the time of your Nikah were you advised that for a marriage to be legally recognized in the UK it has to be carried out by an official Registrar? **YES / NO**

**If YES continue to 18: If NO jump to 19**

18. Who advised you that a Nikah is not a legal ceremony?

- 1) An Imam
- 2) A mosque official
- 3) A family member
- 4) A friend
- 5) Other

(Circle as many as apply)

**Continue to 19**

19. Do you think a UK Nikah ceremony should give you the same legal rights as a civil marriage? **YES / NO / Don't know**


**Continue to 20**

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20. Were you given a copy of your Nikah certificate? **YES / NO / Don't know**

**Continue to 21**

21. Did you sign a document that looked like the one below when you were married?



**CERTIFIED COPY OF AN ENTRY OF MARRIAGE**      GIVEN AT THE GENERAL REGISTER OFFICE

Application Number \_\_\_\_\_ COL Number \_\_\_\_\_

19 Year... Marriage solemnized at		The Register Office					in the	
District of		County Name		in the		Borough Name		
Column	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
No.	When married	Name and surname	Age	Condition	Rank or profession	Residence at the time of marriage	Father's name and surname	Rank or profession of father
No.	Date	Name and Surname	Age	Condition	Job Title	Address	Father's Name and Surname	Father's Profession
	Month	Name and Surname	Age	Condition	Job Title	Address	Father's Name and Surname	Father's Profession
	Year	Name and Surname	Age	Condition	Job Title	Address	Father's Name and Surname	Father's Profession
Married in the		Register Office					by Register Name	
This marriage was solemnized between us,		Groom Signature		in the presence of us,	Witness Signature 1		Register	
		Bride Signature			Witness Signature 2		Address	


**SAMPLE CERTIFICATE**

CERTIFIED to be a true copy of an entry in the certified copy of a register of Marriages in the Registration District of \_\_\_\_\_  
Given at the GENERAL REGISTER OFFICE, under the Seal of the said Office, the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_

This certificate is issued in pursuance of section 63 of the Marriage Act 1949. Sub-section 3 of that section provides that any certified copy of an entry purporting to be sealed or stamped with the seal of the General Register Office shall be received as evidence of the marriage to which it relates without any further or other proof of the entry, and no certified copy purporting to have been given in the said Office shall be of any force or effect unless it is sealed or stamped as aforesaid.

CAUTION: THERE ARE OFFENCES RELATING TO FALSIFYING OR ALTERING A CERTIFICATE AND USING OR POSSESSING A FALSE CERTIFICATE. ©CROWN COPYRIGHT

WARNING: A CERTIFICATE IS NOT EVIDENCE OF IDENTITY.



- 1) Yes  
2) No  
3) Don't remember

**Continue to 22**

22. Is there a Mehr (Dowry-like financial settlement given by the husband) set out on your Nikah certificate?

**YES / NO / DON'T KNOW**

**If YES continue to 23: If NO jump to 24**

23. If yes, was your Mehr paid in full at the time of Nikah?

**1) Paid in full**

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2) **Some outstanding**

3) **All outstanding**

4) **Don't know**

**Continue to 24**

24. Is your husband married to more than one wife?

**YES / NO**

**If YES continue to 25; if NO jump to 29**

25. Did you agree to this polygamous marriage?

**YES / NO**

**If YES jump to 27; if NO continue to 26**

26. If you did not agree to this marriage, was it done without your knowledge?

**YES / NO**

**Continue to 27**

27. How many other wives does your husband have?

**ONE / TWO / THREE OR MORE**

**Continue to 28**

28. Did you marry him before any of his other current wives? **YES / NO**

**Continue to 29**

29. Would you be prepared to be in a polygamous marriage?

**YES / NO**

**Continue to 30**

30. Have you ever been divorced? **YES / NO**

**If YES continue to 31; If NO jump to 34**

31. What type of divorce did you get?

1) **Only a Khula**

2) **Only a civil divorce in the Family Court**

3) **Both**

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### 4) Not sure

If 1 or 3 continue to 32: Otherwise jump to 34

32. Where did you obtain your Khula?

- 1) Agreed between you and your husband
- 2) Sharia Council
- 3) Another way (specify)

Continue to 33

33. How did you find the process of obtaining a Khula?

- 1) Easy
- 2) Fairly Easy
- 3) Neither Easy nor Difficult
- 4) Fairly Difficult
- 5) Very Difficult

Continue to 34

34. We would like to show that we are interviewing a cross section of Muslims in the UK, from various different ethnic groups. Therefore, it would be helpful for us if you could advise us below.

**Please circle as appropriate:**

White

Asian Indian

Asian Bangladeshi

Black Caribbean

Arab

Mixed Race

Asian Pakistani

Black African

Chinese

Other

Continue to 35

35. Which of the following best describes your Muslim heritage?

- 1) Born – practising
- 2) Born – not practising
- 3) Convert

Continue to 36

36. Were you born in the UK? **YES / NO**

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Continue to 37

37. Was your mother born in the UK?

**YES / NO / Don't know**

Continue to 38

38. Was your father born in the UK?

**YES / NO / Don't know**

Continue to 39

39. How many children under 18 do you have from your most recent marriage?

Continue to 40

40. What are the first three letters only of your home postcode? (Eg. LE3)

Continue to 41

41. What age did you leave full-time education

- 1) 12 or under
- 2) 13-16
- 3) 17-18
- 4) 19-25
- 5) Older than 25
- 6) Still in full-time education

Continue to 42

42. What is your annual household income

- 1) Under £20,000
- 2) £20 – £30,000
- 3) £30 - £40,000
- 4) £40 – £60,000
- 5) More than £60,000

**This is the end of the survey. Thank you very much for your participation.**



## **True Vision Aire – UK Marriage Survey**

**Signpost anyone to support if marriage is unregistered and they have just found out or they are having marriage difficulties or any other issues and need support or guidance. If in doubt contact the Producer (Sally Ogden) on 07976975535 for advice.**

## **Aanchal Asian Womens Aid Charity**

**0845 4512547 (24 hour helpline with most languages spoken)**

**Community researcher to make notes for True Vision Aire afterwards if appropriate, but not for ICM to process. Just if you think there might be someone with an unusual story who might be willing to talk to the producer or even consider filming with us.**

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