The National Steering Group on Forced Marriage and Learning Disability was set up in 2012 as a working group of professionals who have worked closely within their communities tackling forced marriage. The group was started by Rachael Clawson, building on the research undertaken with the Ann Craft Trust and within her role at the University of Nottingham.

The National Steering Group is funded by the FMU and it’s remit is to identify best practice across the UK, highlight the challenges faced by practitioners and support professionals within their safeguarding role. If you’d like more information about the role of the National Steering Group on Forced Marriage and Learning Disability please contact rachael.clawson@nottingham.ac.uk

The Ann Craft Trust (ACT) is a charity that supports professionals to safeguard disabled children and vulnerable adults from abuse.

In 2010 ACT (funded by the FMU) published the report Forced Marriage of People with Learning Disabilities in partnership with Judith Trust, exploring the reasons why people with learning disabilities can be forced into marriage, the motivating factors for families in carrying out this practice, the warning signs and best practice in relation to dealing with these cases and guidance for professionals. This report can be ordered through www.anncrafttrust.org
Today’s presenters...

Rachael Clawson is currently employed as a lecturer in Social Work at the University of Nottingham; her research interests include safeguarding disabled children and vulnerable adults with a particular focus on forced marriage. She has a range of experience in the safeguarding field having worked as a local authority social worker and manager in mainstream and disabled children teams for a number of years. She is a member of a number of national working groups and organisations including the National Working Group on Child Protection and Disability and Baspcan. Rachael is the Independent Safeguarding Advisor to the Sense Safeguarding Board and founder and Chair of the National Steering Group on Forced Marriage and Learning Disability.

Chaz Akoshile is the joint head of the Forced Marriage Unit (FMU), a joint Foreign & Commonwealth Office and Home Office Unit. The FMU runs a public helpline, providing confidential advice and support to victims and professionals with responsibility for safeguarding children and protecting adults from the abuses associated with forced marriage. He has worked extensively to ensure the forced marriage legislative proposals, in England and Wales, successfully completed their parliamentary passage – the new offences were introduced in June 2014. He is also experienced in identifying and disseminating best practice across the community safety field, promoting a plethora of exemplars that demonstrate the best problem-solving approaches to tackling crime across the UK.

Anne-Marie Hutchinson specialises in all aspects of domestic and international family law and the international movement of children. She has expertise in international divorce forum and jurisdictional disputes on divorce, with particular expertise in international custody disputes, child abduction (Hague and non-Hague); the EU Regulation on jurisdiction in family matters, relocations and children's law private and public. She acts for the victims of forced marriages, abandoned spouses and Honour Based Violence. and has assisted in the protection of 150 plus Forced Marriage victims. She has acted in the leading Forced Marriage and Stranded Spouse cases. Anne-Marie has acted for victims and threatened victims of Female Genital Mutilation.
Today's programme...

10.00  Registration and coffee
10:30  Welcome
10:45  **What research tells us:** Rachael Clawson  
      (University of Nottingham & The Ann Craft Trust)
11:30  Tea & Coffee
11.45  **The role of the FMU and new legislation:**  
      Chaz Akoshile (Forced Marriage Unit)
12:45  Lunch
1.45  **A legal perspective:**  
      Anne-Marie Hutchinson OBE (Dawson Cornwell)
2.30  Round table Discussions
3:30  Feedback and discussion
16:00  Close

The Ann Craft Trust would like to thank The Dialogue Society, Rachel Clawson, The National Steering Group on Forced Marriage and Learning Disability, University of Nottingham, FMU, Anne-Marie Hutchinson OBE and Dawson Cornwell for their invaluable advice, support and time.

If you would like more information about the work of the National Steering Group please contact rachael.clawson@nottingham.ac.uk.