

# Foreign Affairs Committee

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Rt Hon Jeremy Hunt MP  
Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs  
Foreign and Commonwealth Office  
King Charles Street  
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02 January 2019

Dear Foreign Secretary,

I am writing concerning the story in today's *Times* about charges imposed on those repatriated to the UK following forced marriages ('Forced marriage victims charged rescue fee') to ask whether the FCO accepts that the story is factually correct. In addition, I would be grateful if you could let me know:

- What the FCO's policy is on charging for the repatriation costs of victims of forced marriages overseas who seek to return to the UK;
- How many women in such circumstances have been charged in each of the last five years;
- What the average costs charged in each year were; and what was the highest amount charged in each year;
- What costs the charges cover;
- What the FCO's policy is on the entering into of loan agreements to cover repatriation costs for victims of forced marriages and what the terms are of those agreements;
- How many women currently owe money relating to these charges, and what the average amount is of such debt;
- What the FCO's policy is on support for repatriation in circumstances where the victims are not able to pay and are not willing to enter into a loan agreement.
- Whether it is the policy of the FCO to confiscate the passports of those who owe it money for repatriation following forced marriages; if so, how many passports have been so held in each of the last five years; and how many are held currently.

Members of the Foreign Affairs Committee are deeply concerned that victims may be forced to pay for their own rescue or, worse, may be dissuaded from asking for help if they have not got the funds. I am sure you will agree that this issue must be addressed urgently and so I would be grateful if you could reply as soon as possible, and in any event no later than Friday 11 January. I expect that this correspondence will be published.

I shall be writing separately about charges imposed by the FCO more generally.

Best wishes,



**Tom Tugendhat MP**  
Chair