



Pakistan - Researched and compiled by the Refugee Documentation Centre of Ireland on 13 August 2010

Internal relocation in Pakistan for individuals being targeted by families for refusing an arranged marriage.

An *Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada* response to a request for information on the situation for Pakistani men seeking to avoid an arranged marriage states:

“According to the Human Rights Commission of Pakistan (HRCP), an independent non-governmental organization, a generalization concerning the situation of males, particularly Pashtun males, in North West Frontier Province (NWFP) who refuse to participate in an arranged marriage, is almost impossible to make and each case should be examined individually (15 Apr. 2004). The HRCP's position is the same on the issue of whether the bride-to-be could marry someone else if such an engagement is terminated—each case should be examined individually (HRCP 15 Apr. 2004). In the opinion of the Joint Director, in each case, the situation of the groom-to-be and the bride-to-be, their family, the circumstances and whether they live in a rural or urban area of the province would need to be examined.” (Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada (29 September 2009) *PAK103265.E – Pakistan: The situation of men who refuse to participate in arranged marriages set up by their parents*)

A *BBC News* report states:

“A man taken to Pakistan as a child and forcibly engaged to his five-year-old cousin has called for a men's refuge. Foreign Office minister Meg Munn said authorities must talk to those affected to ‘listen to their experiences’ and ‘learn directly from them’. She said: ‘Generally people expect men to be able to look after themselves, to manage situations, so men subject to domestic violence, men subject to forced marriage are likely to find it much, much more difficult.’ She added ‘there could well be’ a need for a male shelter. The British High Commission in Pakistan said that the issue of boys and men being forced is a problem that it is aware of.” (BBC News (2 February 2008) *Call for male forced wedding help*)

In a section titled “Arbitrary Interference with Privacy, Family, Home, or Correspondence” the 2010 *United States Department of State* country report on Pakistan states:

“Although the government generally did not interfere with the right to marry, local officials on occasion assisted influential families to prevent marriages the families opposed.” (United States Department of State (11 March 2010) *2009 Human Rights Report: Pakistan*)

In a section titled “Freedom of Movement, Internally Displaced Persons, Protection of Refugees, and Stateless Persons” this report states:

“The law provides for freedom of movement within the country, foreign travel, emigration, and repatriation; the government limited these rights in practice.” (ibid)

References:

BBC News (2 February 2008) *Call for male forced wedding help*
http://newsvote.bbc.co.uk/mpapps/pagetools/print/news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/uk_news/7223743.stm

(Accessed 13 August 2010)

Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada (29 September 2009) *PAK103265.E – Pakistan: The situation of men who refuse to participate in arranged marriages set up by their parents*

<http://www.unhcr.org/cgi-bin/texis/vtx/refworld/rwmain?page=printdoc&docid=4b7cee847>

(Accessed 13 August 2010)

United States Department of State (11 March 2010) *2009 Human Rights Report: Pakistan*

<http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/hrrpt/2009/sca/136092.htm>

(Accessed 13 August 2010)

This response was prepared after researching publicly accessible information currently available to the Refugee Documentation Centre within time constraints. This response is not and does not purport to be conclusive as to the merit of any particular claim to refugee status or asylum. Please read in full all documents referred to.

Sources Consulted:

European Country of Origin Information Network

Google

Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada

Lexis Nexis

Refugee Documentation Centre Query Database

United Kingdom Home Office

UNHCR Refworld

United States Department of State