



According to an organization, many people in Burkina Faso are so poor that they have no money for food, and sometimes, they have no place to live.

Some parents want to save money, they find a husband for their daughter, and they **arrange** a forced marriage. This happens against the **will** of the girl, who is often younger than 18. Reports say that between 2019 and 2021, 650 forced marriages and 2,200 child marriages happened in the country, but the real number is probably much higher.

Some girls run away from their families, and they stay in a shelter where they can study. **Nuns** run the shelter, and sometimes it happens that parents come to look for their daughters. Forced marriages are illegal in the country, so the girls can usually stay in the shelter.

**Difficult words:** **arrange** (to make plans for something to happen), **will** (what someone wants or wishes to do), **nun** (a woman who belongs to a religious community of women, and nuns live together in one place).

**Discussion Questions****Topic Talk**

1. Define the following words: *arrange*, *will* and *nun*
2. What kind of life do many people in Burkina Faso have?
3. Why do Parents in Burkina Faso arrange a forced marriage for their daughters?
4. According to reports, how many forced marriages and child marriages happen between 2019 and 2021?
5. Is forced marriage legal in Burkina Faso?
6. Where do some young girls go when they run away from their families?

**Express Your Thoughts**

1. Do you know of any places where forced marriage or child marriage is legal?
2. Is forced marriage legal in your country? Did it use to be?
3. If your parents looked for a husband/wife for you and arranged a forced marriage, would you agree to marry that person?