



# Political Sketchbook

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## What the Heck Now?

Right guys back to work and time to turn this all into an opportunity. The stock market falls will give you a chance to buy great British companies at a huge discount just as we did after 9/11 and the credit crunch...but first we kept selling...so buy slowly gradually. Pick the biggest ones. Panic usually means overselling and an opportunity for those on the ball.

Next up...businesses. If you're an exporter or have the potential to export, cancel everything and start looking at how to export the hell out of your products. For overseas buyers they are at a 10 percent discount to last week already.

If you're worried about your job now is a great time to take your destiny in your own hands. Revisit that CV just in case. Don't wait you know the competition is. Modern job search sites make it easier than ever...who knows with fewer immigrants you may be in more demand.

If you're disillusioned working class fed up of no opportunities, don't forget all the government programmes for retraining and reskilling. Use them before just in case there are big cuts. Hopefully there won't be. But use those benefits now.

The experts who we hate predict a recession so save your money...good advice in all times not just these.

And look the pound is at a 30 year low, so scrap the foreign holiday and holiday in Britain instead...maybe Yorkshire...lovely folk weather is always good that way you help the country too.

If you're an overseas investor...you've got once in a lifetime bargain low prices because of the exchange rate...buy when

others are fearful remember. If you're big enough, hey takeover the whole company. By investing here you secure more British jobs so thanks for that and then you can export cheaply globally. We still have the best talented skilled workforce.

And if you're a foreign visitor...come pay us a visit...you're money goes a lot further here now...and we still have Buckingham Palace and Trafalgar square Theatreland and London Bridge.

Got it. Back to work.

And for all those people who think democracy is about the losing side being quiet and then calling the losing side whingers and whiners...let me give you a lesson in democracy and history. Every single election in this country has resulted in a losing side.

That side never then joins the winning side to do their bidding. Indeed, in Parliament itself the losing side are Her Majesty's Loyal Opposition. They oppose they are vociferous and they do not go quietly into the night. Ours is an adversarial democracy not a passive norm.

We have every right to fight including civil disobedience. Including exercising our free speech, so don't tell us to shut up...we are the ones, the fighters and not the quitters, the loud not the quiet who make a democracy.

And if the results were the opposite I would have been proud of any Brexiter to have opposed and fought. The day you lose the spirit to uphold democratic traditions of opposition, and exercising your free speech you really will wish you could have your country back. Fight on.

## Man jailed following fatal hit-and-run collision in Osterley

Farhan Ali, 30, of Cole Gardens in Hounslow, has been jailed for six-and-a-half years for causing death by dangerous driving in Osterley.

Ali, who drove at speeds of over 140mph, was jailed at Isleworth Crown Court on Friday (June 24). A second count

of dangerous driving post-collision was also to lie on file.

Ali was also sentenced to an extended four years prison sentence should he commit any further offences when released on licence, and was disqualified from driving for 10 years with an extended



Farhan Ali

retest, licence endorsed

## What protection is available from Forced Marriages in the UK?



Krina Parmar

"The definition of a Forced Marriage is breaching one's Human Rights, without the valid consent of either party. In such cases an element of duress is always a factor".

The key difference between a forced marriage and an arranged marriage is the issue of consent. Forced Marriages can involve physical, psychological, emotional, financial and sexual abuse.

In the UK, there are no reliable statistics on the extent of Forced Marriages; it remains a hidden problem with cases existing but unreported. There is a misconception that Forced Marriage only relates to young girls. However, victims of Forced Marriages transcend our society and include both females and males of all ages including those with disabilities. In many cultures within the UK, Forced Marriages are considered as the cultural norm.

In 2008, the Forced Marriage Protection Order came into force (FMPO) offering protection to victims who had been or likely to be subjected to a Forced Marriage. The Order provides protection not only to those marriages that may occur in the UK, but also to victims that may be taken abroad and includes religious marriages.

A FMPO can be applied for in a designated Civil Court and any "interested party" can apply for such an Order, this includes the person being protected, relevant third party or by someone on behalf of the victim. The order can be made against anyone who is in or outside of England and Wales and can be made against more than one person. Even if a person is not yet involved, it can be made on the belief that they may

become involved.

Since the introduction of the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014, once the respondent(s) have been effectively served with the FMPO, breaching the Order is a criminal offence which is punishable by 5 years in prison and/ or unlimited fine. The Act also made it a criminal offence to force someone into marriage or take them abroad to be forced to be married. If convicted it will carry a maximum sentence of seven years imprisonment. The Act also offers protection to those without the mental capacity to consent to a marriage.

Victims can now pursue a civil or criminal option. On the issue of which option should be taken one needs to consider the type of protection the victim requires. The FMPO covers a wide range of orders. When considering this you have to establish what evidence is available. The burden of proof is higher for a criminal offence (beyond all reasonable doubt) whereas the civil burden is on the balance of probabilities. The civil process is lengthier and the victim is more involved. Action is often taken by victims against their parents and family members. Therefore, they would want the most effective order to protect them but the least invasive option.

At present there are no statistics available to consider how effective the protection available has been. Awareness of how such protection can be accessed in the UK and repercussions of breaching, will hopefully increase its use and effectiveness in the future.

### About the Author: Krina Parmar

Family & Childcare Director Krina Parmar is recognised by Chambers UK 2016 for her expertise in family and childcare matters relating to forced marriages and international child abduction.




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Wood Lane, Osterley.

Officers attended and established that a blue BMW had been in collision with a male pedestrian.

Ali was arrested on Monday February 9 after handing himself at a west London police station. He was charged the following

charged with another offence of dangerous driving having achieved speeds in excess of 140mph on the M40. For this offence he