

The image features a warm, orange-toned background. In the foreground, the dark silhouettes of three people are shown in profile, appearing to be in conversation. A large, light-colored speech bubble is positioned in the upper center, containing the text 'CAN I MARRY WHO I CHOOSE' in a bold, dark font. To the right of the text, a large blue question mark is superimposed on the speech bubble. The overall composition suggests a theme of personal choice and communication.

**CAN I
MARRY WHO
I CHOOSE**

?

Engelska

SEEM FAMILIAR?

ARE YOU WORRIED THAT YOU WILL NOT BE ...

- ... allowed to choose who you marry?
- ... allowed to fall in love with someone of the same sex?
- ... able to get a divorce if you are already married?

This brochure has information on who to contact for help and if you need to talk to someone.

“... I felt like I was split in two. One part of me was the married Maryam who would raise a family because that was what my relatives wanted, another part of me was a young high school girl who really missed her friends and boyfriend at home in Sweden.”

(Young girl)



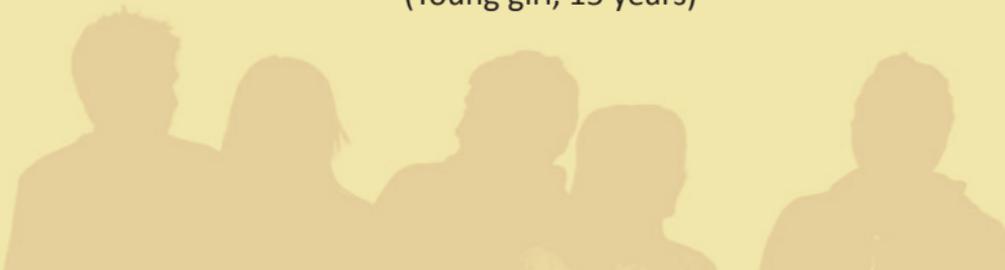
WHAT ARE THE RULES IN SWEDEN?

- You have the right to choose who you marry.
- The persons getting married should both be present at the marriage ceremony and also both provide consent.
- You must be at least 18 years old in order to get married.
- If you are below 18, you can get married with a special permit if there are special reasons.
- It is illegal to use violence or threats of violence to force someone to get married.
- You are allowed to get a divorce if you are already married.

(According to Swedish legislation)

“...my parents have already decided who I should marry ... Don't I have the right to choose who I marry???
Please help me ...”

(Young girl, 15 years)



ASSISTANCE

You can start by talking to an adult who you know and trust.

School

Contact your teacher, school counselor or school nurse.

Youth clinic

(Ungdomsmottagningen)

Youth clinics help youths aged 13–25 with different problems. On umo.se you can ask questions anonymously and get personal replies. You can also find the address of a youth clinic near you.

www.umo.se ■

National telephone support line for women (Kvinnofridslinjen)

Everyone can call the national telephone support line for women and receive support and advice. They have interpreters who speak other languages besides Swedish. Your call is free of charge and will not show up on your telephone bill. The line is open 24 hours per day, 7 days per week.

www.kvinnofridslinjen.se ■

Tel: 020-50 50 50

Empowerment centres for young women (Tjejjouren)

Empowerment centres for young women are staffed by other young women who volunteer there in order to support and empower other young women. They can accompany you if you need to contact the social welfare services or the police. On tjejjouren.se you can send e-mails, chat with a volunteer or find a centre near you.

www.tjejjouren.se ■

Online forum for young boys and teenagers (Killfrågor.se)

You can e-mail the forum and chat with trained adult volunteers.

www.killfrågor.se ■



National project for LGBT (heder.nu)

If you are a homosexual, bisexual or transgender individual, you can get help, support and information on heder.nu. You can e-mail or call free of charge.

www.heder.nu

Tel: 0200-160 160 ■

Your rights (Dina rättigheter)

Here you can read about your rights, send e-mails and chat.

www.dinarattigheter.se

The Swedish Police

Call 112 if you are being or have been threatened, locked up or beaten.

www.polisen.se/komtilloss.se

Tel: 112

Telephone from abroad:

+46 771 14 14 00

Social welfare services (Socialtjänsten)

The social welfare services are managed by municipalities and all residents of Sweden are entitled to receive the help they require. The address and phone number can be found on your municipality's website. The website also has the phone number of socialjouren (the emergency social service where you live) who you can call during the evening, night and weekends.

www.skl.se/web/kommuner

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Read more about the help you can get from the social welfare services and other resources.

www.umo.se

■ It is up to you to decide whether you want to reveal your identity here

ARE YOU GOING ABROAD?

– important information!

Some young men and women are forced to get married when they go abroad with their family. If you are worried that this will happen then it is recommended that you try to stay at home.

Before your trip you can talk to an adult who you trust, someone from the social welfare services or the police. They can try to help you so that you do not need to travel.

If you still need to go abroad and you experience problems while you are there, you can contact the Swedish Embassy in the foreign country.

There is a Swedish embassy or consulate in most countries that help Swedes when they are abroad.

But it may be difficult for the police, the social welfare services and the Swedish Embassy to help you when you are not in Sweden. This is because other countries have different rules and regulations.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Find the addresses of Swedish embassies and read more about the assistance they can give you at **www.regeringen.se** (Click on Policy areas (or hover your mouse over it) and then on Embassies, consulates and consular affairs.)



CHECKLIST FOR THE TRIP

Bring my mobile phone and an extra SIM card!

Contact

- someone I trust
- the social welfare services
- the Swedish Police.

Tell the person

- when I am expected to return home (date)
- that he or she should contact the municipality if I am not at home by that date
- that he or she should contact the Swedish Embassy in the country I am travelling to if I am not at home by that date.

Give the person

- a copy of my passport
- my phone number
- my e-mail address.

Remember to bring the phone number and e-mail address of

- the person I have talked to
- relatives and friends who can help me
- the Swedish Embassy.



The Swedish National Board for Youth Affairs

is a government agency which gathers knowledge and disseminates information on young people's living conditions. We support organizational activities, municipalities and international cooperation.

This brochure can be downloaded or ordered from
www.ungdomsstyrelsen.se/olikasprak



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www.ungdomsstyrelsen.se