Swedish private and criminal law contains various provisions offering protection against forced marriage and child marriage. For instance, there is an age limit of 18 for marriage (at present allowing for exemptions), the act of forcing someone to marry is punishable as unlawful coercion and there is a presumption against recognizing foreign forced marriages and child marriages.

To strengthen the legal protection against forced marriage and child marriage, the Government recently referred a number of draft legislative amendments to the Council of Legislation for consideration. The Government is now in the process of considering the Council's advice. A Government Bill is planned for later this year.

The referral to the Council included the following proposals:

. A specific criminal law provision on forced marriage that widens the scope of the criminalisation and allows for more severe sentencing.

. A provision criminalising the conduct of "luring" (cf. Article 37.2 of the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence).

. Abolition of the possibility of exemption from the age requirement for marriage.

. Further restrictions concerning the recognition of foreign forced marriages and child marriages.