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## A Sham Marriage Story

### Indian woman's story

This Indian woman's story of her being accused of having a sham marriage was originally published in The Guardian. Because sham marriage and marriage fraud investigation is such an important topic this Indian woman's story is now being summarized and written here in simple english so that it's easy to read for everyone.

The Indian woman was born in Mumbai and she came to the UK when she was 23 years old to study a foundation degree in fashion marketing and PR. Soon after she arrived she adopted the British way of life and bought a lot of new clothes from a shop in Wembley. One of the young men who worked there offered to drop her new purchases round to her flat later that day. She agreed to that and they exchanged numbers. "It turned out he had left a little note in the pocket of one of the jackets I had bought". The Indian woman told to The Guardian. The note said: "Stay beautiful and stay in touch." That was the beginning of a wonderful relationship, which is still going strong.

After completing the foundation degree she did also MA in fashion and business management, and then worked for a corporate company that sponsored her. She was granted a work permit until 2015. After working for a few years the Indian woman decided to move on and she got on a course in autumn 2013 to qualify as a lecturer. When she left the company, the sponsorship ended also and she had to apply for a new work permit.

The Indian woman had been seeing the guy from the Wembley shop for seven years of which two years they had been living together in a rented flat. They decided to get married and they were both very excited of their future.

The Indian woman got a job as a lecturer at the London College of Fashion. She just had to wait for the renewal of the work permit. In the application of the work permit, under the “additional information” section, she had mentioned that she was planning to get married to her partner, who is a British citizen.

Then, out of the blue, the Home Office contacted her. She was taken to an interview room and left waiting for three hours. They took away her bag and her phone. She couldn't call her partner. She told them that she had documents in her bag that proved that she had an application in progress. The officials weren't interested. Instead she was being told that she was being arrested and detained.

She was accused of being about to enter a sham marriage so that she could stay in the UK. She tried to tell them that her partner was waiting outside for her and that they could go and question him if they didn't believe her. They didn't do that.

The Indian woman was put into a locked van with bars on the windows and taken first to Colnbrook Immigration Removal Centre near Heathrow and then to Yarl's Wood detention centre in Bedfordshire. She wasn't allowed to say goodbye to her partner before they put her in the van. She was in a state of shock and distraught.

The Indian woman tells that being in detention centre opened her eyes to a lot of things. That place was worse than a prison. There were so many women who, like her, were innocent of any crime, but had been locked up. Many tried to kill themselves. There were four roll calls a day and life was monotonous, with only a gym and a library to go.

Some women were just shells of their former selves by the time they were released. The Indian woman's partner found a lawyer who stated that the detention was unlawful because the Indian woman had an application under consideration by the Home Office and was involved in a genuine relationship.

Thankfully, she was let out after seven weeks. During that time her partner visited her 15 times and did everything he could to support her.

The Indian woman told that the day she was eventually released felt strange. She couldn't believe she was finally free, and felt paranoid that the Home Office was just going to arrest her again.

The Indian woman told that it is deeply distressing that officials accused her of having a fake relationship with the man who she loves and has spent the last seven years of her life with.

This writing was a summary written in simple english. You can read [the original story published in The Guardian](#) on this link.

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