



# Cross-Border Intimate Partnership Formations

- In a policy perspective /  
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# Cross-border intimate partnership formation and policy

- Cross-border partnership formation as an integration factor
- Cross-border partnership formation as a challenge - to cultures, to family values, to perceptions of honour etc.





# Numbers on cross-border partnership formation in Denmark

- Decrease in the numbers of non-western immigrants living in Denmark married to people living outside Denmark:
  - from 61% in 2001 to 31% in 2008.





- Increase in the numbers of non-western immigrants living in Denmark married to ethnic danes:
  - from 13% in 2001 to 23% in 2008



- Numbers of intermarriage between different ethnic groups living in Denmark:



Tabel 1: Numbers of marriages between persons from selected countries of origin living in Denmark and persons from other countries of origin than their own, excluding danish origin, 2008.

Country of origin	number
Iran	55
Pakistan	78
Tyrkey	137
Libanon	54
Somalia	14
Iraq	78
Vietnam	48

*Kilde: Udlændingedatabasen, vielser3*



**Tabel 2: Share of marriages between persons from selected countries of origin living in Denmark and persons from other countries of origin, excluding Denmark, 2008.**

Country of origin	share
Iran	43 %
Pakistan	43 %
Tyrkey	28 %
Libanon	57 %
Somalia	48 %
Iraq	50 %
Vietnam	33 %

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# Cross-border partnership formation as a challenge

- The concept of honour
  - A theoretical definition – the collective honour of the family, control of the girls sexuality
  - The concept in practise – social control, suppression, isolation, violence, forced marriage etc.



# Numbers on honour related conflicts

- Increase in numbers of enquiries to the central advice unit LOKK
  - About 100 in 2005
  - About 400 in 2008
- Reasons for the increase



- Numbers of reported cases from the police which can be honour related
  - 380 cases since medio 2006
- Numbers of refusals on family unification because of a supposition of forced marriage:

2007: 95 cases = 7.2% of all denials



# Policy-makers

- Consensus vs. conflict
  - What to do?
  - How much to do?
  - Ressources?



# Policy

- The Aliens Acts
  - The 24-year rule
  - The free will of both spouses
  - The "cousin –cousin rule"
- The Penal Code
- The Action Plan against forced marriage from 2003



# Existing initiatives

- Ordinary shelters for battered women
- Special shelters
- Advice and information
- Mediation



# Coming initiatives

- Team of male role-models
- Shelter for young couples
- Central information unit and mediation team
- Attitude campaigns



# Conclusions

- Increase in crossborder marriage
- Increase in enquiries about honour related conflicts
- Growing awareness of the individuals rights
- Growing awareness of the possibilities to get help and support
- Continuing need for policy and initiatives regarding honour related conflicts