

# **A Comparative Study of Forced Marriage in the Iranian Legal System and International Criminal Law**

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**Forced Marriage is defined as the force or pressure put on people to marry. In other words, it is when a young woman or man faces physical or emotional and psychological pressure to marry. Forced marriage is a violation of internationally recognized human rights standards. Matital status imposes on a party or parties against their will are one of the most challenging forms. This relationship will be formed in the absence of consent with menace. Forced marriages are considered as crimes of sexual violence. They have not been criminalizes in all Iranian legal codes, however, we can regard examples of forced marriage Article 646 of the Islamic Penal Code which states that: Marriage before puberty without the permission of the guardian is forbidden. It should be noted that this Article has been repealed. In international instruments, including the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women(CEDAW), forced marriages is prohibited for children(nine full lunar years for girls), and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, Article 16 refers to the necessity of will and maturity in marriage, but have not predicted an independent punishment for it. In this regard , we can mention the provisions of paragraph 7 of Article 2 of the Statute of the Special Court for Sierra Leone and the paragraph 1of Article 7 of the Statute of the International Criminal Court as crimes investigating against humanity sexual crimes including sexual slavery, that is different for forced marriage, although we may generalize it to forced marriage considering the same criteria.**

**Keywords :**

[Islamic Azad University, Rasht Branch - Thesis Database](#)  
[دانشگاه آزاد اسلامی واحد رشت - سامانه بانک اطلاعات پایان نامه ها](#)