



# FORCED MARRIAGE & TRAFFICKING IN PERSON IN VIET NAM

NGUYEN THUY HIEN  
CENTER FOR WOMEN AND DEVELOPEMNT  
VIETNAM WOMEN'S UNION

*“Forcing marriage... means threatening, intimidating spiritually, maltreating, ill-treating, demanding property or another act to force a person to get married or to divorce against his/her will”.*

Viet Nam Law on Marriage and Family 2014 (Clause 9, Article 3)

# Some forms of forced marriage in Viet Nam

## *The custom of catching wives of ethnic minorities in the Northern Mountains*

- Object: Women and girls
- Method: young man force, manipulate, kidnap any woman they want to go home to get married
- Long-standing culture/customs of some ethnic groups in the Northern Mountains.

## *Child marriage*

- The average age of marriage for women is 15.8 years old and men is 17.5 years old
- The rate of underage marriage in women (23.5%) is higher than in men (20.1%) \*



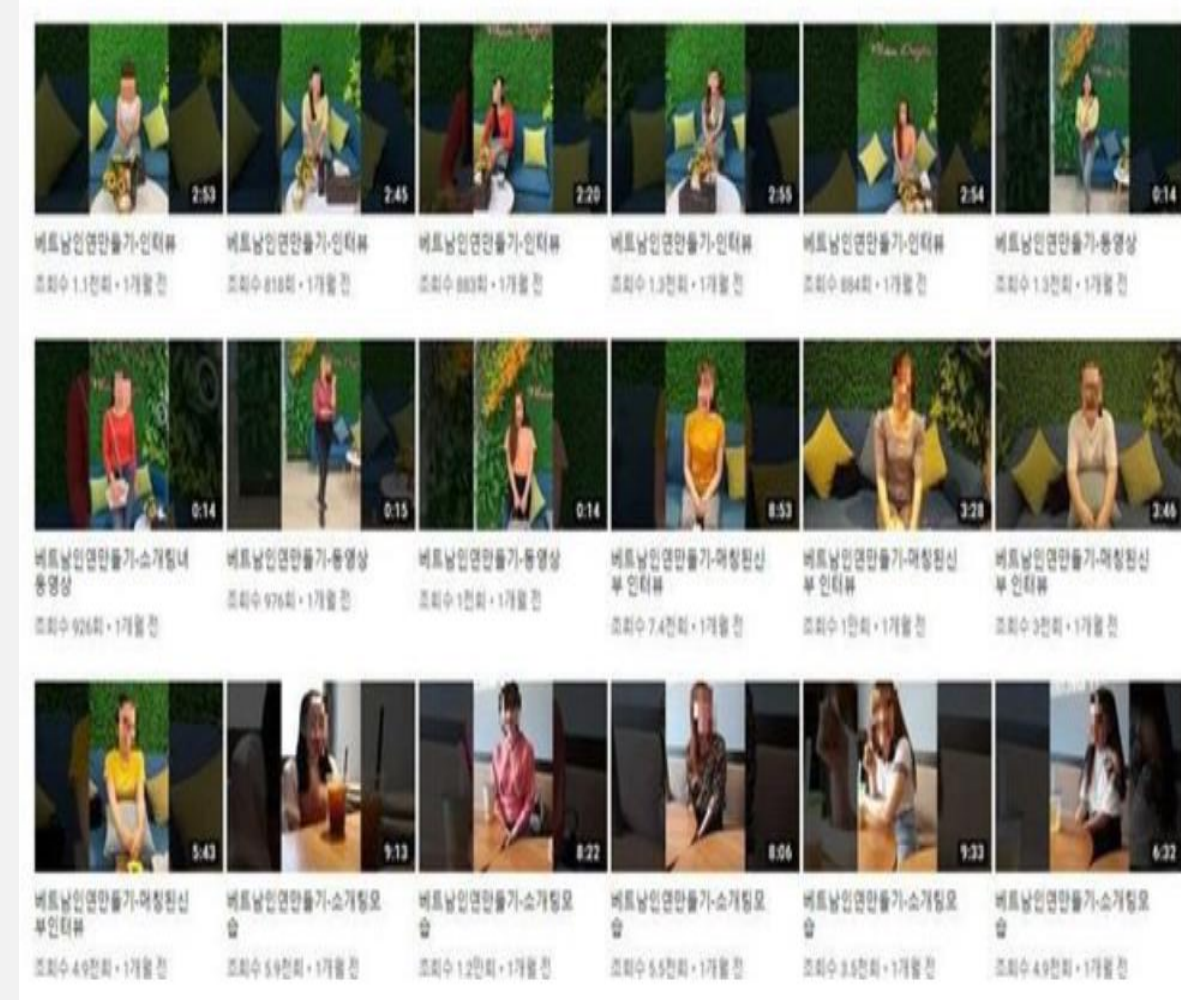
Source form Committee for Ethnic Religions



# Some forms of forced marriage in Viet Nam

## *Marriage with a foreigner*

- Marrying a foreigner
- Method: marriage brokerage, wife recruitment
- Object: Women and girls
- Reasons: due to difficult family circumstances, parents urging or coercing, being tricked or kidnapped by acquaintances.



Video "quảng cáo" cô dâu xuất hiện nhan nhản trên YouTube.

*“Taking advantage of the right to marriage and family for **trafficking in person (TIP)**, labor exploitation, sexual abuse or other acts for self-seeking purposes.”*

Viet Nam Law on Marriage and Family 2014 (Clause 2i Article 5)



## Taking advantage of marriage brokerage with foreigners

- Using social networking platforms like Facebook, Zalo to cheat

## Taking advantage of long-standing cultural customs and traditions

- TIP criminals use the custom of “catching wives” and “child marriages” to kidnap women and girls.

## Purpose of Forced Marriage – TIP



**Exploitation/Sexual  
service for  
husband/brother-  
in-law**



**Forced labor**



**Forced  
childbirth**



**Being traded  
between many  
"husbands"**

# Action Plan

- The Government approved the National Targeted Program for Socio-Economic Development in Ethnic Minorities and Mountainous Areas for the period of 2021-2030 in which the Vietnam Women's Union was assigned to lead the implementation of Project 8 on *“Implementing gender equality and solving urgent problems for women and children”*

## **Vietnam Women’s Union takes action in:**

- Communication, raising awareness
- Criticizing and advocating for policy development

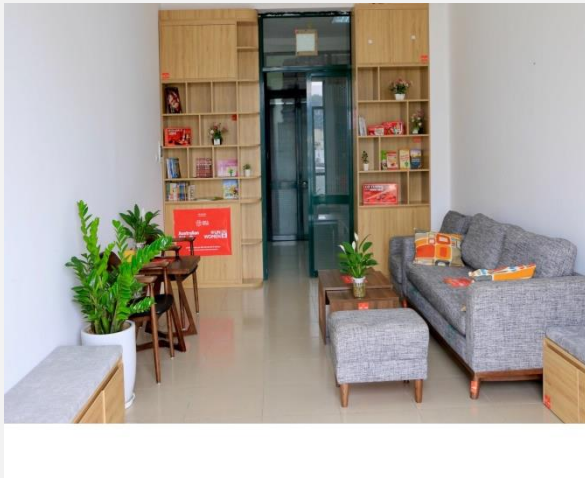
## **Developing supporting services:**

1. Center for Counseling and Support for Marriage with Foreigners
2. OSSO Office
3. Peace House Shelter

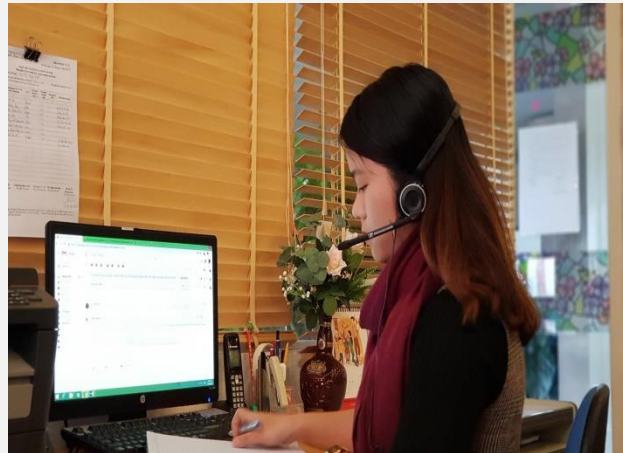


# PEACE HOUSE SHELTER

A comprehensive model of support for victims of gender-based violence



Counselling Room



Hotline: 1900 96 96 80



Peace House Shelter

# Outcomes of victim assistance

- Receiving temporary shelter **1432** cases belonging to **17** ethnic groups from **55/63** provinces/cities

## ➤ Hanoi:

- Domestic violence, sexual violence: 1047 cases (590 adults, 457 children)
- TIP: 385 cases (244 adults, 141 children)

## ➤ Can Tho: 35 cases

- Two Self-Help Groups: nearly 150 members become advocates in the community



# THANK YOU

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<https://cwg.vn/en/peace-house-shelters> 