

# FEMMES FOR FREEDOM'S MARITAL CAPTIVITY JOURNEY



## STAGE 1: RESEARCH

The first step Femmes For Freedom (FFF) took was to research marital captivity in the Netherlands: who is effected, to what extend, and what are the legal possibilities to change this. FFF also set-up legal support and a reporting tool for the victims of marital captivity.

## STAGE 2: AWARENESS

The second step was to share the information to the audiences of the campaign (the general public, politicians, and victims of marital captivity) and raise awareness. The resulting media attention drew Dutch politicians towards the issue.



## STAGE 3: LOBBY

The third step was linked to the legal possibilities in step one: FFF needed politicians to raise the issue in parliament and adopt the proposal of including marital captivity in the definition of forced marriage under the Dutch Marriage Coercion, Polygamy and Genital Mutilation Act.



## STAGE 4: OUTLAW

FFF succeeded in July 2013, after the amendment by Dutch politician Arib-Hilkens went through and the changed law went into force. Marital captivity is now punishable in the Netherlands as a criminal offence against the personal freedom of the spouse.

