

- Have an exit strategy. Safeguard a return airline ticket or sufficient funds to get back to Canada and — most importantly — your Canadian passport.
- If you're being pressured into marriage through kidnapping, harassment, emotional blackmail, or any other threat, understand that forced marriage constitutes a human-rights violation under international law. If you're a victim of domestic abuse, such as physical violence, involuntary confinement, or the withholding of your passport and finances, inform the local authorities. For further assistance, or if you need help returning to Canada, contact the nearest Canadian embassy or consulate or the Emergency Operations Centre in Ottawa (see page 25). Consular officials can provide you with a list of local lawyers, shelters, and social services.

- For more information on marriage overseas, see [travel.gc.ca/faq](http://travel.gc.ca/faq).

## **Don't get scammed**

Women romantically involved with overseas suitors are sometimes victims of crime or fraud. Typical cases include online dating scams, extortion by in-laws or criminal gangs abroad, and appeals to send large sums of money to a foreign "fiancé" to help bring him to Canada. Some women who travel to meet possible partners have even been kidnapped and held for ransom. Certain would-be immigrants consider marriage to a Canadian citizen to be their ticket to a Canadian visa. They typically bolt when they arrive on our shores. Such scams have nothing to do with romance and everything to do with taking advantage of vulnerable women.

- Beware of those who use international cyber-dating for malicious purposes. It's