



NEW VICE DOCUMENTARY EXPOSES ARRANGED GAY MARRIAGE SCAM IN INDIA

*VICE reporter **Reeta Loi**'s yearlong investigation unearths a bogus business that is cashing in on India's LGBT+ communities' search for love*

'Gay Marriage Scam' premieres Monday April 27, 4pm GMT on VICE YouTube and 9PM on VICE TV



Photography, Gabriel Mokake

****Screeners available upon request****

Watch the trailer [here](#)

LONDON (April 23, 2020) Today - VICE announced the premiere of **Gay Marriage Scam**, a documentary fronted by LGBT+ activist, artist and writer **Reeta Loi** that lifts the lid on a bogus business that is cashing in on people's search for love by promising to find their perfect partner. The new 30 minute documentary will premiere on the 27th April on VICE's global YouTube channel and at 9pm on VICE TV in the UK.

'The Arranged Gay Marriage Bureau' is a company based in India that promises to provide a revolutionary arranged marriage system exclusively for gay men and women. With over

3,700 clients worldwide, it's founder Urvi Shah claims to fulfil people's dreams and help find them a partner for a substantial fee.

After seeing a number of impressive testimonies and stories about the bureau in the media, VICE reporter **Reeta Loi** decided to sign up to the service herself with the hope of finding a partner. She also follows the journey of fellow subscriber Keith as he searches for a husband. Urvi's assurances that she personally picks out suitable potential partners for each of her clients, leads them to start the process with great optimism. But as almost a year goes by, it becomes clear that Reeta and the LGBT+ community using the service are actually being scammed with fake profiles and fake love match testimonies. Reeta also asks the important question of why love - even in today's society - seems to be a basic right for everyone except for LGBT+ communities in many places in the world.

Reeta Loi said, "South Asian LGBT+ people are some of the most vulnerable and at risk people in the world. It has been devastating to find that anyone would choose to lie to us and steal from us, all under the guise of helping us find love. With so many of us lacking the support of family, to claim to be acting as such in the tradition of Arranged Marriage that is culturally so familiar to us, is also an unacceptable blow. Love is surely a basic human right that should not be criminalised between consenting adults. That this bureau was set up while criminal legislation was still in place in India is telling of a person keen to prey on people that have no other support or any safe way to find love. I hope that this documentary brings about the end of this shocking and horrific scam."

Reeta Loi is an artist and writer and a powerful voice for women and LGBT+ communities from across South Asia. After disownment from her own family due to her sexuality and without access to community, culture or stories like her own, Reeta founded [Gaysians](#), the umbrella brand she has spearheaded globally to provide positive visibility and a united voice for LGBT+ South Asians. Her platform Gaysians.org is the first of its kind to provide South Asian LGBT+ people much needed access to support and community across the UK. Reeta was also instrumental in lobbying for repeal of section 377, legislation that criminalised homosexuality in India and has been listed in the Forbes100 as well as the Guardian's Pride Power List.

'Gay Marriage Scam' premieres on VICE, 27th April 2020

VICE: On TV & On Digital

Sky 183, Talk Talk 338, TV Player & NOWTV, Virgin 219BT TV (SD channel 338, HD channel 391), the BT Player and BT TV App.

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