

Honour Based Violence



What is it?

Honour based abuse is a collection of practices used to control behaviour within families in order to protect perceived cultural and religious beliefs and/or honour.



Violence can occur when perpetrators perceive that a relative has shamed the family and/or community by breaking their honour code.

Women are predominantly (but not exclusively) the victims, which can be distinguished from other forms of violence, as it is often committed with some degree of approval and/or collusion from family and/or community members.

Males can also be victims, sometimes as a consequence of their involvement in what is deemed to be an inappropriate relationship, if they are gay, or if they are believed to be supporting the victim.

What offences are being committed?

Honour based violence is a serious offence which can involve a number of crimes:

- Common assault
- Domestic abuse
- Forced marriage
- Cruelty to persons under 16 (including neglect and abandonment)
- Failure to secure regular attendance at school of a registered pupil
- Theft (e.g. passport)
- Child abduction
- Abduction of an unmarried girl under the age of 16 from parent or guardian
- Abduction of a woman by force or for the sake of her property
- Forced repatriation
- Rape
- Aiding and abetting a criminal offence
- Kidnapping
- False imprisonment
- Murder



Warning Signs



- Extended absence from school/college, truancy, drop in performance, low motivation, excessive parental restriction and control of movements and history of siblings leaving education to marry early.
- Poor attendance in the workplace, poor performance, parental control of income and limited career choices.
- Evidence of self-harm, treatment for depression, attempted suicide, social isolation, eating disorders or substance abuse.
- Evidence of family disputes/conflict, domestic violence/abuse or running away from home.

Where to find help:

- If you are being subjected to abuse or you are concerned for someone contact the police on 101 (nonemergency) or always dial 999 in an emergency.
- Forced Marriage Unit - Foreign & Commonwealth Office
Telephone: 020 7008 0151 (Mon – Fri, 9 - 5pm)
Out of hours: 020 70081500
- Freedom Charity
Telephone: 0845 6070133
Text: 4freedom to 88802
- Karma Nirvana (Mon - Fri, 9am - 5pm)
Honour-based violence and forced marriage helpline Telephone: 0800 5999247
- Domestic Abuse National Helpline (24 hour line) Telephone: 0808 2000247

