

Tackling domestic abuse within BME communities

SAVERA UK

Savera works with Black Minority Ethnic communities to challenge attitudes towards domestic abuse and harmful practices such as forced marriage, 'honour' based violence and female genital mutilation.

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Harmful practices

Forced marriage

Forced marriage is against the UK law. (Marriage is a choice and you have that choice under UK law.)

- **You** have a choice to finish your education and the choice of what you want to study.
- **You** have the choice to be independent.
- **You** have the choice of who you want to share your life with.

So called 'honour' based violence

So called 'honour' based violence is a fundamental abuse of human rights.

Is someone controlling you by:

- Telling you what to do and how to behave
- Not allowing you to dress the way you want
- Having a friends that considered an 'outsider' to your family and the community
- Forcing you into marriage
- Saying you would shame and dishonour the family if you are gay, lesbian or transgender

Female genital mutilation (other names: cutting/circumcision)

The World Health Organization defines FGM as "all procedures involving partial or total removal of the external female genitals, or other organs for non-medical reasons".

Health implications

FGM has short and long term complications including:

- Severe pain and shock
- Infections
- Difficulty in passing urine
- Difficulty during child birth
- Sexual, psychological problems

FGM is against the law in the UK and anyone who puts a female through FGM or assess any other person of FGM for no medical reason within or taking the child outside the UK could be sent to prison.

For help and support please contact any of the following:

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