

DO NOT:

- Send them away
- Approach members of the family
- Approach members of the community
- Accept family or community members statements without an 'honour'-based abuse targeted risk assessment and the relevant questions being asked
- Attempt mediation, reconciliation (such as family counselling) with the family and/or community members
- Approach the person at risk's family or community leaders/members – this could heighten the risk to them
- Share information without consent.

Accurate record keeping in all cases of violence/abuse in the name of honour is important. Records should:

- Be accurate, detailed, clear and include the date
- Use the person's own words in quotation marks
- Document any injuries – include photographs, body maps or pictures of their injuries
- Only be available to those directly involved in the person's case

100,000S OF PEOPLE FACE VIOLENCE, ABUSE OR DEATH DUE TO HARMFUL PRACTICES

Join us to end these practices now.



SAVERA UK

We will end 'honour'-based abuse and harmful practices

saverauk.co.uk

Helpline: **0800 107 0726**
10am - 4pm, Monday to Friday



To make a referral visit our website and complete the online referral form:
saverauk.co.uk/get-help/referrals-for-professionals/

In an emergency, please call 999.

SAVERA UK

WHAT IS THE ONE CHANCE RULE?

You may only have **one chance** to save the life of a person who is at risk or under threat of 'Honour'-Based Abuse (HBA) and harmful practices, including but not limited to forced marriage, female genital mutilation, breast ironing and virginity testing. They may only have **one chance** to make a disclosure, meaning you only have **one chance** to save and protect a life. This means that we all need to be aware of our responsibilities and obligations. If a person at risk is not listened to or taken seriously and walks out of the door without immediate intervention and safeguarding protection being offered, that **one chance** might be lost and a life lost too.

saverauk.co.uk

Helpline: **0800 107 0726**
10am - 4pm, Monday to Friday

ONE CHANCE CHECKLIST

- Always see the person at risk on their own – even if they are accompanied by others
- See the person at risk immediately in a secure and private place where you will not be overheard
- Reassure the person at risk about confidentiality and explain that you will not give information to family, friends or the community or anyone that can be a risk to their wellbeing
- Always take them seriously and listen to what they are saying; it is crucial to listen to the person at risk or under threat – remember that they may not be able to articulate why they believe they are at risk or provide tangible evidence of the risks
- Explain all the options to the person at risk and possible outcomes
- Recognise and respect their wishes
- Always assess the risk faced by conducting an appropriate and thorough risk assessment

Remember, cultural acceptance does not mean accepting the unacceptable. None of these practices are 'culture', nor are they part of any religion. They are abuse and a violation of human rights.

- Agree a way to make contact safely (for example agree a code word)
- Obtain full details of the person at risk and record these safely
- Provide contact details or help the person at risk to memorise your contact details and/or those of a support agency
- Consider the need for immediate police involvement, protection and placement away from the family and arrange this if necessary; this includes any action to stop the person at risk from being removed from the UK
- Do everything you can to keep the person at risk safe
- Get immediate advice if you are not sure what to do

All staff employed by a local authority, professionals working with vulnerable people, the police and the NHS are legally obliged to make a referral to the local authority if they know or suspect someone is "a child or adult at risk".

DO NOT MAKE ATTEMPTS TO CONTACT THE FAMILY OR COMMUNITY MEMBERS – THIS INCREASES RISK AS THEY MAY BE COLLUDING WITH THE ABUSE.

Involving families in cases of 'honour'-based abuse and harmful practices is extremely dangerous and in no circumstances should agencies allow the person's family to find out about any disclosure.

- Family involvement can cause an increased risk of serious harm to the person at risk, including threats to kill, kidnapping, blackmail, false imprisonment, being forced into marriage
- Involving the family includes: visiting the family to ask them about harmful practices or writing a letter to the family requesting a meeting about the 'person at risk' statement
- Relatives, friends, community leaders and neighbours should not be used as interpreters, despite any reassurances from this known person

In cases of potential 'honour'-based abuse or other harmful practices (forced marriage, FGM), it is essential to consider other siblings and family members that may be experiencing, or at risk of, the same abuse.