

What is Honour Based Abuse (HBA)?

Honour based abuse (HBA) is a crime or incident, which has or may have been committed to protect or defend the honour of the family and/or community. The assailant feels that the only way to restore family honour is to harm or kill the victim. It is often linked to family members or acquaintances who mistakenly believe someone has brought shame to their family or community by doing something that is not in keeping with the traditional beliefs of their culture.

Women and girls are the most common victims of honour based abuse; however, it can also affect men and boys. Crimes of 'honour' do not always include violence. Crimes committed in the name of 'honour' might include:

- domestic abuse - physical and psychological pressure (strict monitoring, humiliation, threats)
- threats of violence
- financial and dowry abuse
- sexual abuse
- forced marriage
- being held against your will or taken somewhere you don't want to go
- assault
- female genital mutilation (FGM)

A forced marriage is one that is carried out without the consent of both people. This is very different to an arranged marriage, which both people will have agreed to. There is no religion that says it is right to force you into a marriage and you are not betraying your faith by refusing such a marriage.

Key Facts & Trends in Honour Killing

- Honour based abuse is often premeditated and planned by several family members.
- People who commit honour based abuse believe that their conduct is justified and receive support from their community.
- Women are usually the victims of honour based abuse, but men are also targeted if, for example, they are suspected of being homosexual or for refusing a marriage.

Women are abused and murdered for a variety of reasons, including: talking to an unrelated man, refusing a marriage, seeking a divorce, or disobeying her husband or father. Women who have been raped have been murdered for the 'dishonour' it brings to their family.

Why It Matters

Honour based abuse is a widespread phenomenon that represents the most horrific outcome of a patriarchal, honour-based society in which honour is considered more important than human life.

Things to know

More people than ever are reporting honour based abuse. We take every reported incident very seriously and work to protect the safety and security of victims.

You do not have to wait for a crime to be committed to come and talk to us. We are here to help even if nothing 'criminal' has happened yet.

No instances of honour based abuse are too minor to report to us. It affects the whole community, not just those involved or victimised directly.

If you have been a victim of honour based abuse, or know someone else who has been affected by it, there's help and support available.

Recognising Risks

- Children may truant to avoid family and relatives knowing where they are.
- Children may be isolated, depressed and there may be concerns about self-harming behaviour.
- Families may continue to feel 'shame' and the risks may transfer to children or siblings.
- Children may be excessively restricted in their movements; grounded permanently.
- Denial of access to internet, phones, friends, passport.
- Children may be stopped from seeing their mother.

Responding to & Referring Concerns

Where someone discloses fear of honour based abuse, professionals in all agencies should:

- **Take the disclosure seriously and act on it.**
- **Refer to Adult or Children's Social Care and the Police promptly.**
- **A Strategy/Professionals meeting must be arranged within 24 hours. The meeting should be a multi-agency meeting and a legal advisor should be invited.**

Under no circumstances:

- **Let the family or social network know.**
- **Speak to the person at risk in front of family members.**
- **Approach the family or community leaders or attempt mediation.**
- **Use members of the community to interpret.**
- **Accidentally give out information which might jeopardise the person's safety.**

Caution is required about how information is recorded and shielded within the organisation.

For help and support please contact any of the following:

0800 107 0726
www.saverauk.co.uk
info@saverauk.co.uk

**In an emergency,
please call 999**

   **SaveraUK**

