

WHAT IS 'HONOUR'-BASED ABUSE (HBA)?

'Honour'-based abuse (HBA) is a crime or incident that has or may have been committed to protect or defend the 'honour' of the family and/or community. The perpetrator or perpetrators feel that the only way to restore family 'honour' is to harm or kill.

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 or/and family values.

Things that can be considered as 'dishonour':

- Dress in clothing outside of your cultural traditions
- Identify as being LGBTQ+
- Access higher education without the approval of your family
- Separate or divorce from your partner
- Refuse a marriage
- Interact freely with men when in public
- Become pregnant outside of marriage
- Marry someone that your family has not chosen for you
- Marry outside of your religion or caste
- Have sex before marriage
- Go against any other cultural traditions that your family or community believe

Crimes of 'Honour'-Based Abuse

Women and girls are most commonly affected by 'honour'-based abuse. However, it can affect people of any gender. 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
- Emotional/psychological abuse
- Coercive control

FACT SHEET

- Forced marriage
- Being held against your will or taken somewhere you don't want to go
- Assault
- Female genital mutilation (FGM)

Key Facts 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 can receive support from their community
- Women are usually the victims of 'honour'-based abuse. However, men are also targeted if, for example, they are suspected of being LGBTQ+, refusing a marriage or going against their family's cultural values

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.

- Children/young people may truant to avoid family and relatives knowing where they are
- Individuals may be isolated, depressed and there may be concerns about self-harm
- Families may continue to feel 'shame' and the risks may transfer to children or siblings of a person at risk
- Adults may be excessively restricted in their movements, while children and young people may be grounded permanently
- Individuals at risk may be denied access to the internet, phones, friends, passport
- Individuals are always chaperoned by family members

Responding to 'Honour'-Based Abuse:

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
- Always follow your organisational policy and other relevant local/national policies and procedures
- Follow the ONE CHANCE RULE at all times. We believe that there might be only once chance to speak to potential victim and, therefore, just one chance to save a life
- Hold an emergency strategy/professional meeting with relevant agencies,
- (this should be immediately or within no less than 24 hours)

FACT SHEET

UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES

- Let the family, community or social network know about the disclosure
- 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:**

0800 107 0726 (Mon – Fri, 9am – 5pm, exc bank holidays)
www.saverauk.co.uk
info@saverauk.co.uk

In an emergency,
please call 999