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LETTER FROM OUR CEO

As I write this I am reflecting on the 12 months that have passed since we delivered our first ever Impact Report, and I am feeling elated to once again be able to showcase the outstanding work of the Savera UK team.

I want to start by saying a huge thank you to every single one of them, they make me proud everyday. Despite the challenges and changes we have faced, we have achieved so much, including being recognised for our commitment to tackling 'honour'-based abuse (HBA) and harmful practices at the IKWRO True Honour Awards 2022 (see photo).

While Savera UK ensures the best support and advocacy for survivors and those at risk of HBA and harmful practices, it is also important that we address the causes. We need to promote full understanding of the issues so it is possible to recognise the difference between culture, which provides us with our identity and allows a sense of belonging, and harmful practices such as HBA, female genital mutilation and forced marriage, which only cause pain and harm.

Some still try to convince us that these are part of their culture and belief systems, but we know these practices are abuse. They are the removal of individual rights and bring only pain and harm, and in extreme cases, death. The argument of 'culture' is only used by perpetrators and those who facilitate them, as a justification for abuse.

As highlighted at our event in December 2021, Savera UK believes that culture is beautiful - not an excuse for abuse. We have come a long way in terms of breaking the silence around HBA and harmful practices, as you will see throughout this report.

We aim to ensure these practices continue to be seen and recognised as abuse, through collaboration, creative campaigning and partnership working, while also celebrating and showcasing the beauty of culture. This is a message we will continue to share in 2022/23, particularly through our strategic plan, which has been supported by the Pilotlight programme.

I want to also take this opportunity to share some important thank-yous. To our Youth Advisory Board and all members of the Savera UK Youth for their continued commitment to make a real change for future generations. To the Savera UK Board of Directors for helping and supporting me to steer the ship in the right direction, particularly during difficult times, and to the Savera UK Advisory Board for always being on hand to share your specialist advice and support.

Finally, a special thank you to our funders and supporters for believing in the work Savera UK does and knowing that your investment in the work we do is making a difference.

Afrah Qassim, Founder and CEO



L-R Aislinn O'Dwyer, Chair of Savera UK Board, Amina Saeed, Savera UK Board Member and Afrah Qassim

OUR IMPACT



new 'honour'-based abuse (HBA) referrals to our service find their 'Savera' (new beginning).*

active clients supported.



of referrals had been subjected to or were at risk of FGM.



*These referrals came from individuals and professional agencies including police, health and social services and educational establishments.

This number equates to almost 5% of all reported cases of HBA in the UK in the year ending March 2021. However, we know that this figure and the number of cases we see referred into our service are the tip of the iceberg - the individuals and families who have reached crisis point - often a matter of life or death - and need emergency support.

In the five years since our first funded project, we have seen case numbers grow, as awareness around HBA, its signs and pathways to help, has increased through our support service and campaigning work.

We have recorded the data outlined in this impact report from 1st April 2021 – 31st March 2022, unless otherwise stated.

After engaging with Savera UK's service*:



reported an increased level of safety.



reported an increase in their overall wellbeing.



said they felt more empowered and believed in their ability to succeed.



reported an increase in self-esteem.

*Of 30 clients assessed. Outcome monitoring is not possible with every client Savera UK supports as engagement may be lost for a variety of reasons and some cases may still remain open, so the assessment is not completed.

Last year, we reported on the percentage of referrals concerned with 'honour'-based abuse (HBA). As we are a specialist service supporting survivors and those at risk of HBA, we have this year changed our reporting process, recognising all cases referred into Savera UK as HBA. Any cases that are assessed and not recognised as HBA are referred on to relevant agencies.

OUR IMPACT

Training, Education and Awareness



of professional training attendees agree that they had a better understanding of the problem and impact of 'honour'-based abuse and/or harmful practices. We engaged with more than



individuals via our community awareness sessions and events.

We reached more than



professionals via training courses, education and awareness sessions, events and conferences about HBA & harmful practices.



young people with education sessions on harmful practices and how to prevent them.



pieces of media coverage achieved



million reached by media coverage



mentions for Savera UK in media

SUPPORT TEAM UPDATE



Drop-in sessions



Session attendees (excluding children)

As well as its vital and specialist HBA support services, helping survivors and those at risk to escape abusive environments and providing advocacy, Savera UK's support team also offers ongoing holistic, emotional, practical and social support that allows clients to thrive in their 'new beginning'.

Drop-in sessions this year have ranged from coffee mornings to reduce social isolation to workshops delivered by specialist facilitators. All activities are designed to provide a safe social space where they can create rapport and cultivate friendships, and to allow them to develop new skills.

Sessions have included:

- · Candle-making
- · Thankfulness sessions
- · Cricket classes
- · Relaxation techniques (e.g. Gua Sha facials)
- · Eid celebrations with Savera UK Youth
- · Mersey Ferry trip
- · Picnics in the park
- · Self-defence and dance workshops
- Workshop to define differences between abuse and culture
- · Safe spaces for open discussion

More focused and longer-term workshops have also allowed clients to build their confidence and learn new coping mechanisms, such as a seven-week art therapy course and two sessions with BBC journalist Ngunan Adamu dedicated to storytelling and public speaking, empowering them to tell their story and speak out against HBA and harmful practices. Most recently, clients participated in 'Embodied Healing' sessions, where they learned how to use safe techniques to heal traumas.

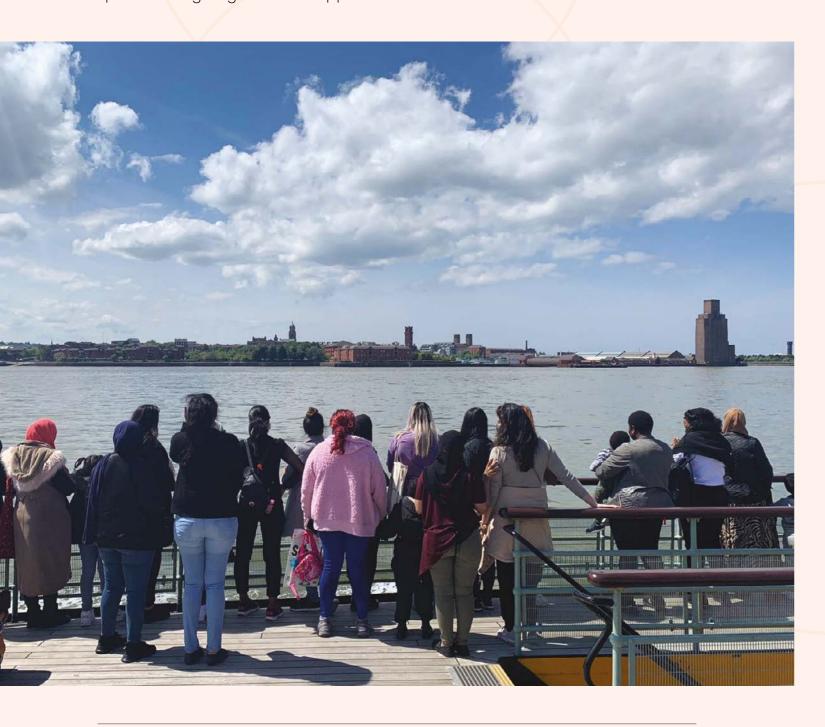
Savera UK Client Feedback

"I think the session is supportive and fun. It is also good for making new friends"

"Drop in sessions are amazing, every meeting has a different routine and discussions and activities. I always enjoy my time at drop ins."

SUPPORT TEAM PARTNERSHIPS

Over the past 12 months our support team has established and maintained a number of partnerships that allow us to provide ongoing holistic support to our clients.





Love Your Neighbour

Savera UK has worked with Love Your Neighbour to provide regular food hampers to its clients. Working with a monthly budget used to purchase food and essentials, rather than donations, Love Your Neighbour allows reasonable requests to be made by clients for specific items and provides flexible and secure delivery/collection methods.



Booksta

Many of Savera UK's clients speak basic or no English and so do not always have the opportunity to read stories to their children, which can lead to speech delays and isolation in school. To tackle this issue, we worked with Bookstart, a national book gifting programme for children aged 0-5. Through the partnership we obtained children's books in Somali, Kurdish Sorani, Kurdish and Arabic, making stories accessible for all children and ensuring they see main characters that look like them and represent diverse backgrounds.



RADIOCITY

Radio City Cash For Kids

Provided bags of new toys for our clients' children at Christmas. On average, each bag contained three or four toys and the bags were distributed to 23 children.



Period Project Merseyside

Period Project Merseyside provided boxes of pads and tampons for our clients, allowing us to provide people with access to these vital essentials over the course of the year, with the provision still ongoing today.



Merseyside Sports Partnership

In order to help our clients get active, improve confidence and reduce social isolation, we worked with Merseyside Sports Partnership to arrange a series of dance and self-defence workshops, including Krav Maga and it provided funding to create a 'sports library' to allow clients to borrow equipment.



All Stars Cricket

As well as delivering an exciting drop-in session where our clients learned the basics of the sport and enjoyed a match together, All Stars Cricket also provided approximately 15 bags of cricket equipment - one for each attendee - to take home and use as they please.

MELIKA'S STORY



Melika is a survivor of FGM, forced marriage and HBA...

A few months after finishing school she was forced to marry an older man she had never met before. Even though she didn't want to, her parents had made the decision. Melika felt powerless.





First he took her phone away from her...



then he destroyed other personal belongings...



then the abuse became physical.



Before long he was controlling her. She wasn't allowed to make friends or even go to the shops – she was only allowed out to pray.







Melika told her family about the abuse, but they said it was just a part of marriage that she should accept.

Things didn't get better. Over the years she was subjected to physical, sexual, emotional and financial abuse. She was accused without reason of infidelity and subjected to a terrifying ritual interrogation, which they believed to be a traditional practice.



She was separated from her children and denied food or drink until she was finally deemed innocent.

It was not only Melika at risk of abuse, but also her daughter. Although she was just a baby, it was insisted that she be cut. As a survivor of FGM herself, Melika did not want her child to go through this.

Melika visited many countries with her husband and she tried many times to report the abuse, but her husband was a powerful man, so he avoided any repercussions.



Melika was completely isolated.

I began to feel like I had made a mistake trying to flee the abuse. I was confused with no hope for what the next stage of my life would be like.

While they were in the UK he threatened to harm her. Despite her previous experiences Melika fled and found the courage to report him to police.

This time she was taken seriously and action was taken. She was also given Savera UK's helpline number.



My first time speaking with someone at Savera UK was encouraging. I felt like I had found peace and hope.

Savera UK helped Melika to make a safety plan for herself and her children, finding her somewhere safe to live, referring her to appropriate agencies that could help her further.



The team also connected her with legal services that enabled her to obtain multiple protection orders for her and her children.





Melika was also referred to specialist medical and emotional support for FGM, as well as ongoing counselling and wellbeing services to help her adjust to her 'new beginning'.



The one thing I love about Savera UK is that they have been a bedrock of information that has helped me set up my home, get educational advice that has helped me get into college and secure legal aid services that give me and my children the protection we need. I had no idea that such services existed before I met Savera UK.

Now, Melika is finally able to work towards her own ambitions.

CAMPAIGNS AND PARTNERSHIP WORKING

THE SMALLWOOD TRUST

The Smallwood Trust supports women on low income to become more financially resilient and navigate adversity by providing grants to individuals. It also works in partnership with organisations like Savera UK, who become "grant-makers" and use funds to support their clients. We have been privileged to have this partnership for three years now and support our clients when they are most in need.

The partnership not only provides the funding, but has also supported and guided us as an organisation that is new to this area of work, carefully listening to the challenges we have faced, in particular regarding those who have No Recourse to Public Fund (NRPF). Through working together the partnership has helped us to adapt our approaches and ensure that those most in need are supported

We have awarded almost £40k to our clients, which has allowed them to pay off debts, pay for accommodation, cover legal fees, education, wellbeing needs and therapeutic support for themselves and their children.

£40k



Enabling women to be financially resilient



"I have received financial support from Savera UK through a Smallwood grant, which was helpful to me in setting up my home and paying some essential bills." Savera UK Client

"Smallwood are delighted to partner with Savera UK as part of our Community Grant Partnerships programme. Savera UK's support provides a vital lifeline for women with Smallwood grants delivered alongside to help reduce financial barriers. Its dynamic engagement with the grants scheme highlights their clear dedication towards helping some of the women most affected by poverty in the UK today." Emma Crump, Head of Programmes, Smallwood



DAY OF MEMORY 2021: DISCUSSING THE **DOMESTIC ABUSE ACT, MIGRANT WOMEN AND 'HONOUR'-BASED ABUSE**

webinar attendees/ viewers

views for the "One Chance Rule" webpage "One Chance Rule"

social media reach and impressions for posts about the "One Chance Rule"

To mark the "Day of Memory 2021", Savera UK hosted an online panel event discussing 'honour'-based abuse and support for migrant women, in the context of the Domestic Abuse Act, which became law in April 2021.

Nazir Afzal OBE chaired the event and speakers included Nicole Jacobs, Domestic Abuse Commissioner for England and Wales, Joanne Anderson, Mayor of Liverpool, Afrah Qassim, CEO and Founder of Savera UK, Saliha Rashid, Campaigner and Survivor and shared the testimonies from survivors of HBA and harmful practices. You can read about the outcome of the discussion here.

During the webinar, the "One Chance Rule" video was launched and welcomed by speakers Nicole Jacobs and Saliba Rashid

"An important and useful tool for everyone" Nicole Jacobs

"We need to continue having these conversations, following the One Chance Rule and listening. Listening and believing what survivors and those at risk are saying." Saliha Rashid, Survivor

'HOW NOT TO BE A TRANS ALLY' TRAINING



As part of the Orange the World campaign's 'inclusion' themed day, survivor ambassador, Kiara Mohamed Amin, provided training to the Savera UK team on his experience as a Trans survivor of harmful practices and how the organisation could better engage and support LGBT+ survivors and people at risk.

The training focused on going further than being an ally and instead being an 'accomplice'. The training is now being used to inform developments within the organisation's services, communications output and messaging.

VICTIMS' BILL CONSULTATION

The Savera UK team responded to the Victims' Bill consultation, which sought to understand how victims' experiences of the criminal justice system across England and Wales could be improved and take steps towards creating a landmark 'Victims' Law'.

Our response highlighted the lack of understanding of the issues faced by people affected by HBA and harmful practices, the need for specialist services and the lack of funding for such provisions. Our response was published after the consultation closed in February 2022.

Our thoughts were echoed. Speaking of the draft Victims Bill, published in May 2022, Domestic Abuse Commissioner, Nicole Jacobs, said:

"We need to recognise that no one size fits all and we must ensure that this type of support is also embedded in 'by and for' specialist services so that Black and minoritized, LGBT+, Deaf and disabled survivors also get the help they need to navigate their journey out of domestic abuse."





6,671

41

809

ntal social media reach

Twitter engagements

Twitter video views

In a project funded by Merseyside PCC, Savera UK's communications team worked with the charity's support team to develop a social media asset that highlighted what survivors and people at risk of FGM should expect if it turned to Savera UK for help.

"I'm proud to work with Savera UK to raise awareness... as we mark #InternationalDayOfZeroToleranceForFGM please spread the word about the specialist support they offer. There may only be one chance to speak out #EndFGM."

Emily Spurrell, Merseyside Police and Crime Commissioner



The project aimed to provide clear, step-by-step information about how the support team works with its clients, what happens when a survivor or person at risk contacts Savera UK and de-mystifying the process, to allay the fears of people who may want to reach out for support.

The asset was launched on the International Day of Zero Tolerance for FGM and shared with Savera UK partners and supporters for ongoing use.



In November 2021, Savera UK and Zonta London joined forces for the second year for its 'Orange the World' campaign, building on the success of the 2020 partnership and extending its reach through the introduction of new assets and events.

NEW CAMPAIGN ELEMENTS

Visibility Across UK

Buildings illuminated orange outside of the Liverpool City Region in Manchester, London, Bristol, York, Birmingham, Newcastle and Nottingham.

Local Launch Event

Local Launch event at Lovelocks Cafe in Liverpool, attended by civic The Culture is Beautiful: No Excuse guests including the Lord Mayor of for Abuse event comprised a panel Liverpool, Cllr Mary Rasmussen, Merseyside Police ACC Ngaire Waine, Cllr Abdul Qadir, Merseyside of Zonta International, Mansi PCC Emily Spurrell (via video).

Shareable Toolkit & Social Assets

The Orange the World Toolkit was created to provide easily shareable content, fact sheets, blogs and social media assets and was used by organisations, local authorities, statutory services and individuals.

Online Panel Event

of national and international guests, including Britt Gustawsson Mehta, Deputy Director, Global Cause Partnerships from UNICEF USA. Dr Elham Manea from Zurich University, and Nazir Afzal OBE.

14 pieces of coverage secured

reach (80% increase on 2020 campaign)

378

visits to website (85% to toolkit page)

150+

people engaged through online and in-person events

social media reach and impressions (405% increase on 2020 campaign)

SAVERAUK YOUTH UPDATE

"This year has been filled with amazing opportunities for members of the YAB, despite having to operate mainly online due to the pandemic. We have adapted by holding online events, such as our online Question Time webinar, where we discussed gender-based violence with local leaders and asked them about steps being taken to prevent it. As restrictions eased, we were also able to install our #ENDFGM Exhibition at the International Slavery Museum for the whole of February, and invite the the Merseyside PCC to a launch event, an achievement we are all very proud of. I can't wait to see what the next year will bring, what skills we will be able to develop and how we will be able to

Malcolm Thwala, Chair, Savera UK Youth, Youth Advisory Board

Savera UK Youth Reach 2021/22

increase the reach of our message."



Instagram 2,606



Website 1,769 new visitors



Blogs 395 new visitors to the Savera UK Youth blog



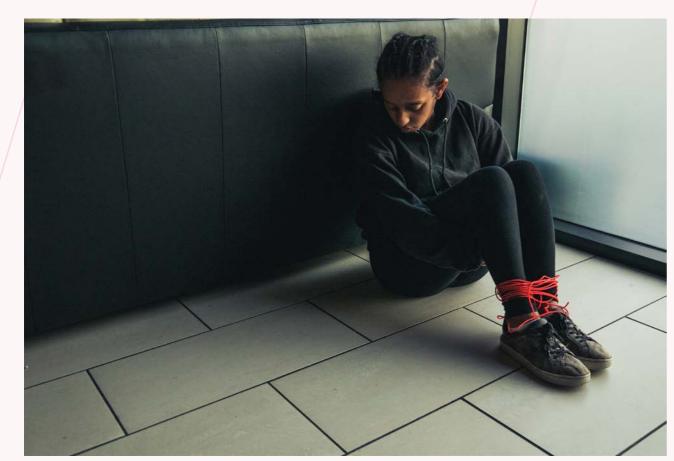


#ENDFGM EXHIBITION

February 2022

Throughout February 2022 Savera UK Youth's #ENDFGM Exhibition was displayed at the International Slavery Museum in Liverpool, to commemorate the International Day of Zero Tolerance for Female Genital Mutilation (FGM). After speaking with survivors of FGM the young people worked with artist Joanne Tremarco and photographer Andrew 'AB' Abrahamson to create powerful imagery, poems, song and text related to FGM. You can read more about the process in this article.





BOUNDED: Malcolm Thwala

I AM STRONG: Hannah Gloudon



The aim of the project is to educate young people about FGM and the impact it has on those affected. It encourages young people to challenge harmful practices that violate human rights, while understanding the beauty of culture, and that it is no excuse for abuse. The exhibition puts a spotlight on these issues and showcases the poetry, performance and photography skills from the young people.

To promote the exhibition's installation at the International Slavery Museum, Youth Advisory Board Chair Malcolm Thwala took part in a media interview with MerseyNewsLive.

He said

"At first I thought it was just a tradition but then I found out it's not. It's people taking away freedom without their consent, those were the things I didn't know."



Hannah Gloudon, a member of Savera UK
Youth and contributor to the exhibition, said:
"It has never been more vital for us to
speak out against FGM and empower
our peers to do the same. Education
is key to meeting our aim of being the
generation that eradicates harmful
practices like FGM and we hope that
our #EndFGM exhibition raises
awareness and encourages other
people to join us in speaking out."

During its installation at the International Slavery Museum Merseyside Police and Crime Commissioner Emily Spurrell visited the exhibition and discussed the project with members of the Youth Advisory Board (YAB), describing the work as "striking" and "hugely powerful".



Ms Spurrell said: "FGM has no place in today's society. Not only is it illegal, it's life-threatening, and it leaves young victims in agony facing long-term physical and psychological challenges.

"Raising awareness of the risks and signs of FGM within our communities, and among key agencies and professionals, is vital if we are to protect girls from harm. I welcome the launch of this innovative exhibition curated by Savera UK Youth which aims to educate people about the impact of FGM and encourages them to speak out."



June 2021

Following the deaths of Sarah Everard, Sabina Nessa, Bibaa Henry and Nicole Smallman, members of Savera UK Youth wanted to highlight the violence and abuse directed against women in Britain. They did so by holding a 'Question Time' event where they discussed with a panel of community leaders and representatives the impact that the issue of violence and abuse has on the community and our youth, as well as how local groups and communities are working towards eradicating them.

Speakers included; Merseyside Police and Crime Commissioner, Emily Spurrell, Labour MP Kim Johnson, Tracey Gore, Chair of Liverpool's Race Equality Task Force and David Derefaka, a BME Community Development Officer working in St Helens, Kieran Bohan, Coordinator, Open Table Network.

You can watch the Question Time panel event in full here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RUm2BVrONBs

GET INVOLVED: FUNDRAISE FOR SAVERA UK

Savera is the Hindi word for 'new beginning'.

Every penny raised for Savera UK helps us provide a new beginning free from the risk of harmful practices, raise awareness to tackle the causes and help us influence and contribute toward ending these horrific practices not just locally, but globally.

Money donated helps us to provide everything from emergency food and clothing for a family that has fled 'honour'-based abuse (HBA), to educational sessions in schools and communities that raise awareness about harmful practices and show people how to get help.

There are many ways to fundraise for Savera UK and ensure we can continue offering vital support to those who are affected by or at risk of HBA and other harmful practices.

Individuals

You can choose how you raise money for us - whether it's a sponsored run, a bake sale, an epic mountain climb or an event. Every penny you raise goes towards continuing the services that we provide to tackle harmful practices and help survivors find their new beginning.

Corporate Fundraising

Whether you're looking for a new charity of the year, a charity partnership to launch a product or campaign, a beneficiary for a charity event or to set up payroll giving, we can help meet your organisational goals and promote your good work.

For more information on how to fundraise to support Savera UK please contact us.



GET INVOLVED: VOLUNTEER FOR SAVERA UK

Are you a passionate activist who cares about social justice, equality and human rights?

Do you want to learn more about 'honour'-based abuse (HBA) and harmful practices, and what can be done to prevent them?

Apply to get involved with our volunteer programme today!

Volunteers make an extremely valuable contribution towards the work that we do at Savera UK and we appreciate every person that shares their time and skills with us.

Each Savera UK volunteer receives specialist training on 'honour'-based abuse and harmful practices and will be supported by our team. At Savera UK you will have the opportunity to learn new skills, gain experience and have a real, positive impact.

Complete the volunteer application form saverauk.co.uk/what-can-you-do/volunteer-for-savera-uk/

If you have any questions please email chelsea@saverauk.co.uk



SAVERA UK 2022/23 GOALS

Alongside our service delivery and campaigning work over that past 12 months, we have also undertaken a full review of Savera UK and its activities, with support from the Pilotlight Programme. Through this programme we have developed a three year strategy, which will underpin our goals for 2022/23 and beyond.



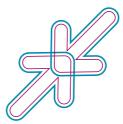
To reach up to 2,000 professionals through our training and awareness



To engage at least 2,000 young people through our youth engagement programmes



To increase self-referrals from survivors and those at risk of HBA and harmful practices



To focus on engaging specific communities where harmful practices are more prevalent



To collaborate on evidence-based research, where findings and data can be used to identify gaps and drive change



To undertake a strategic review of Savera UK's one-to-one service and develop to ensure current and future sustainability



To implement our new business plan across all areas of the organisation and refresh our brand to align with our objectives

VISION AND MISSION

As part of our three-year strategy, we have refined our organisational vision and mission, to be clear in our objectives as we move forward and support our upcoming brand refresh.

Vision

A world without 'honour'-based abuse (HBA) and harmful practices

Mission

To eliminate 'honour'-based abuse and harmful practices

Funders

















Project Funders





Partners







If you are at risk of HBA or harmful practices, or would like advice from our specialist support team, contact the Savera UK Helpline on 0800 107 0726 (operates weekdays 9am - 5pm)

#