SAVERA UK

OUR IMPACT

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LETTER FROM OUR CEO

Afrah at the Merseyside Women of the Year Awards 2022. Photo @wildkindphotography

Welcome to our third annual impact report. I am so thrilled to present it to you in Savera UK's new brand, which we have worked on for the last year alongside our three-year Business and Communication Strategy, which tells the Savera UK story so far and looks forward to our vision for the future.

The last 12 months have been a rollercoaster with lots of bumps along the way, which I am sure any CEO of a charity would understand, given the challenges faced on a daily basis! Despite this, Savera UK's achievements continue to be of the highest standard and I am extremely proud of the work of our small but mighty team.

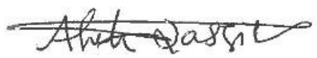
While developing our three-year strategy we redefined our vision as 'A world without 'honour'-based abuse and harmful practices'. More than 12 years ago, when we started this work in Merseyside, these issues were not even talked about or considered. In fact, it felt near impossible that it could happen. Yet, since then, we have made so much progress and even started expanding to other areas to continue the Savera UK dialogue not just with organisations and professionals working in these areas, but all sectors and communities where these practices are more prevalent. The changes we make will save lives.

Highlights from 2022, which you will learn more about in this report, include the launch of our ground-breaking Media Guidelines for journalists reporting on 'honour'-based abuse (HBA) and harmful practices. In another piece of pioneering work, Savera UK also published its first academic paper as part of its on-going partnership with the University of Liverpool, examining HBA survivor, perpetrator and abuse characteristics.

Savera UK Youth, led by the Youth Advisory Board, has also continued its incredible work campaigning against HBA and harmful practices with the launch of its 'Orange Brick Road' video and accompanying resources.

With warmth and love, I want to thank every single person who has helped us get to where we are today. My amazing and incredible team who work so hard to ensure we achieve our goals, all our volunteers and our clients; Savera UK Youth who show relentless determination to make change; The Savera UK Board and Advisory Board who guide me to lead Savera UK. Thank you also to all of our funders, donors and fundraisers, who enable us to continue on our mission.

Through your support, I am committed and motivated to continue, even in challenging circumstances. Together we can make more change and together we will end 'honour'-based abuse and harmful practices.



Savera UK CEO and Founder

OUR IMPACT

Safeguarding and Advocating For Those at Risk

We have recorded the data outlined in this impact report from 1st April 2022 – 31st March 2023, unless otherwise stated

178

active clients who we safeguarded and advocated on behalf of

148

new 'honour'-based abuse referrals brought into our service

4,046

hours were spent working to help those at risk of, and survivors of, 'honour'-based abuse and harmful practices find their 'Savera' (meaning new beginning)

495

calls to the Savera UK helpline through which we provided advice and guidance to professionals and people at risk

21

We helped clients in more than 21 languages

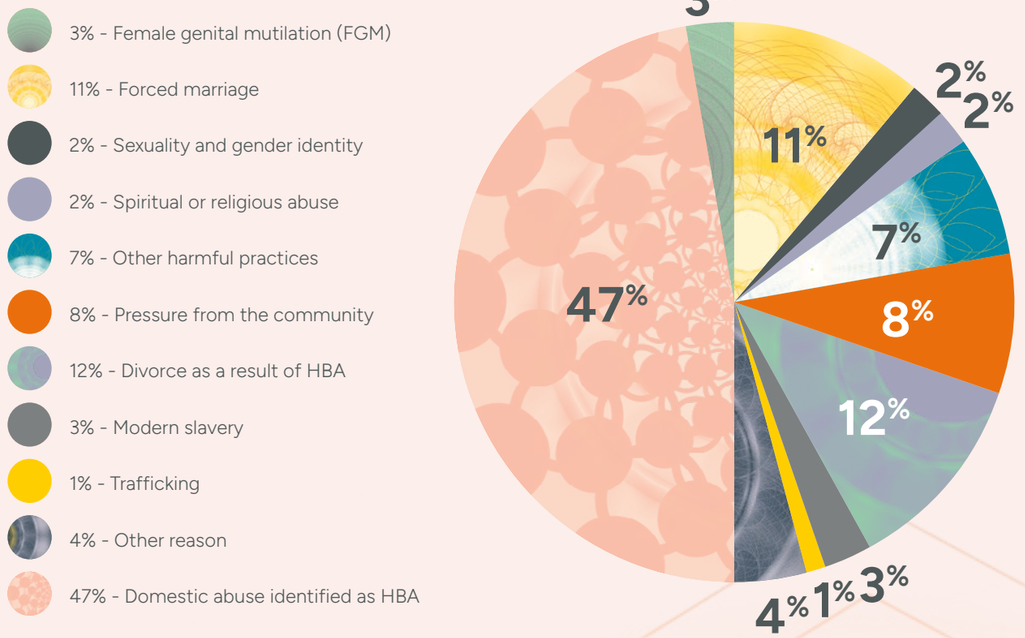
2,292

hours in Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conferences and strategy meetings, working and advising professionals to safeguard those experiencing HBA and harmful practices, and advocating on behalf of Savera UK clients.

66%

of Savera UK clients were aged 21 - 40 years-old

Reasons for referral to Savera UK



There are often multiple factors which contribute to a HBA referral, and clients may be experiencing more than one of the above when they come to our service.

After engaging with Savera UK's service*:

69%

felt more financially stable

63%

reported an increased level of safety

48%

reported feeling less isolated

52%

said they felt an increase in their self-esteem

*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. Data collection on HBA and harmful practices continues to be difficult due to challenges in reporting, however Savera UK is continuing to improve and hone its data collection to ensure the most accurate figures are reflected.

Training and Education

4,383

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

2,062

young people reached through education training.

100%

of awareness session attendees agree they had a better understanding of the problem and impact of 'honour'-based abuse, on both women and men

1000+

engaged via our community awareness and training sessions about HBA and harmful practices

Awareness and Campaigns

78

pieces of media coverage achieved

576m+

reached by media coverage

116

mentions for Savera UK in the media

10,354

engaged through Savera UK campaigns and events

273,518

reached on social media

32,058

visits to the Savera UK website

Recognition for Savera UK

Savera UK shortlisted in the 'Small Charity, Big Achiever' category at the national Third Sector Awards 2022

Afrah Qassim named a finalist in the 'Person with Purpose' category at the Northern Power Women Awards 2022

Afrah Qassim named winner of 'Woman of Courage' at the Merseyside Women of the Year Awards 2022

We were invited to a reception at Buckingham Palace with the Queen Consort to mark International Elimination of Violence Against Women Day

CLIENT-FOCUSED PARTNERSHIPS

Our partnerships play a key role in the service we deliver to clients as we guide survivors of HBA and harmful practices into their 'Savera', meaning new beginning in Hindi. Over the past 12 months Savera UK has strengthened current partnerships and developed new ones, enhancing the service we are able to provide. Thank you to each and every partner who has worked with us!

SMALLWOODTRUST

Enabling women to be financially resilient

The Smallwood Trust

The Smallwood Trust supports women on low income to become more financially resilient and navigate adversity by providing grants. 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 a fourth year. Between April 2022 and March 2023, Savera UK was able to provide financial relief to 51 clients thanks to The Smallwood Trust. These funds have allowed us to buy furniture for clients' homes, aid clients in emergency situations when they are fleeing abuse, pay for educational courses and generally help those in financial hardship. Savera UK has been successful in becoming a Smallwood Trust Community Grant partner for a further three years with a grant of £90,000 which will allow us to continue providing financial aid to those experiencing, and survivors of, HBA and harmful practices.

51

recived financial relief

£90,000

To continue providing financial aid

Love Your Neighbour

Love Your Neighbour

Love Your Neighbour has continued to work with Savera UK and, alongside Hillsong Church Liverpool, donated school uniforms to clients who were struggling financially. Love Your Neighbour also provided around 30 Savera UK clients with Christmas presents just for them so they could enjoy a pamper and relax over the festive period.

lovelocks

Lovelocks Coffee Shop

Lovelocks Coffee Shop, located in Liverpool city centre, kindly offered to act as a donation drop off point for Savera UK over the last year. This allowed Savera UK staff to easily collect donations and maintain its confidential location to help safeguard clients, staff and those at risk of HBA and harmful practices.

JOHN LEWIS & PARTNERS

John Lewis

John Lewis has provided Savera UK with donations of soft furnishings giving clients the opportunity to decorate their homes with cushions and rugs and truly make the space their own. As well as soft furnishings, John Lewis donated clothes and children's toys to Savera UK clients.

cashforkids RADIOCITY

Radio City Cash For Kids

Radio City Cash For Kids works with local grassroots organisations to make a difference to young lives. The programme meant 73 Savera UK clients were able to gift their children presents over the festive period, taking financial strain away from parents and survivors of HBA and harmful practices.

Vodafone

vodafone

Vodafone

As part of the charities.connected initiative to tackle digital exclusion, Vodafone partnered with Savera UK to deliver free connectivity to those at risk of HBA and harmful practices across Merseyside and Cheshire. The network donated 50 SIM cards to Savera UK to benefit clients, which included 20GB of data a month plus free calls and texts for six months.

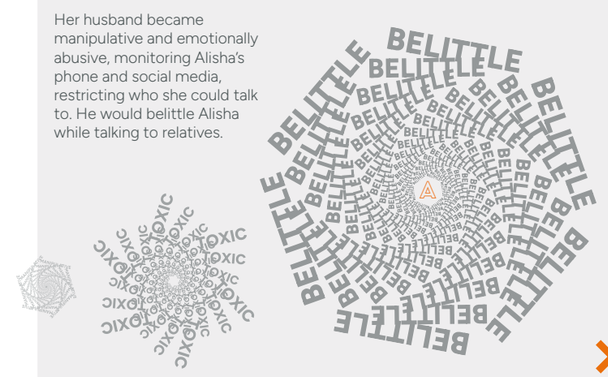
ALISHA* is a survivor of 'honour'-based abuse (HBA) She has shared her story to help others at risk recognise abuse and get help.

*Name has been changed to maintain anonymity

Alisha married her husband in an arranged Islamic ceremony. At the start of their relationship she was happy, but just after the wedding thought...

This is not right, there is something wrong.

Her husband became manipulative and emotionally abusive, monitoring Alisha's phone and social media, restricting who she could talk to. He would belittle Alisha while talking to relatives.

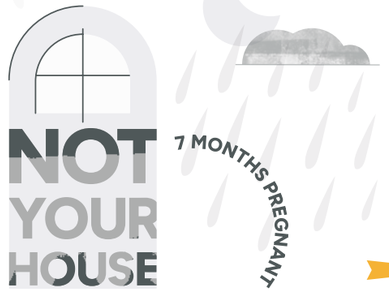


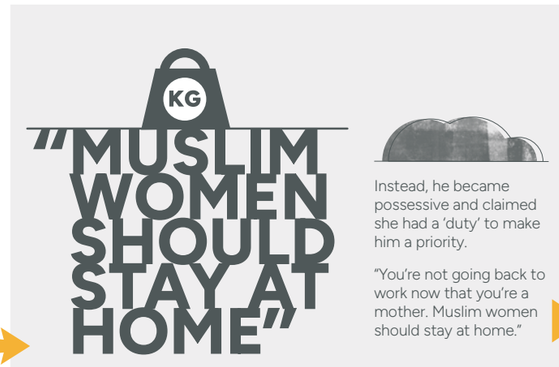
I just felt worthless. I didn't know what I was anymore, it was like I lost my IDENTITY...

It was a stressful relationship as well as abusive, the stress of 'be a good wife, be a good mum' was a lot to take.

Alisha soon fell pregnant, but even then the abuse didn't stop. While seven months pregnant, she was locked out of the house in the night. He told her 'It's my house, not your house'.

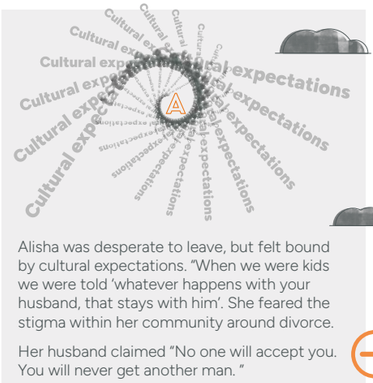
She hoped he would change after the baby arrived.





Instead, he became possessive and claimed she had a 'duty' to make him a priority.

"You're not going back to work now that you're a mother. Muslim women should stay at home."



Alisha was desperate to leave, but felt bound by cultural expectations. "When we were kids we were told 'whatever happens with your husband, that stays with him'. She feared the stigma within her community around divorce.

Her husband claimed "No one will accept you. You will never get another man. "

Alisha remained in the marriage until one day, she found the courage to leave her husband.

"When I had my first baby it gave me a bit of courage to get out of this marriage."

After she left, her husband called social services to claim Alisha abused her son. His lies saw some of her family evicted as he falsely reported they had been involved in crime activities.

"His main intention was to get us out of the country." Alisha lost her job and her home, and had no way to access money.

As Alisha struggled to rebuild her life, she reached out to organisations for help, but was only met by barriers. They couldn't help her because of her immigration status, and they didn't understand the risk she was facing.

Other organisations didn't have cultural insight. They didn't understand Islamic marriage, they just told me 'we can't do anything now'.

Social services referred Alisha to Savera UK, and it was immediately recognised that she was experiencing 'honour'-based abuse (HBA).

She received emotional and financial help and was safeguarded by the direct intervention team. They advocated on her behalf when she was being refused permanent accommodation, as she was at risk of further HBA from her husband as knew where she was.

Eventually, her husband agreed to a divorce – something which Alisha has still kept a secret from members of her community due to the fear of how she would be perceived.

"They always say she's done something wrong it's definitely her, it's never the man – even though he's married someone new." Alisha said Savera UK's specialist expertise helped her feel understood in her time of crisis.

"A lot of people said 'why did you leave the house that night?' but Savera UK said:

YOU DID THE RIGHT THING

– that was a relief."

They understood what I was going through. They knew the cultural expectations, they understood the situation and about Islamic marriage – all those things. That really helped me speaking to them. It was nice to know someone was listening and understanding what I was going through.

There's other organisations, I just didn't get that same relief from them. In one instance I tried to tell an organisation about Islamic marriage and they didn't understand but when I spoke to Savera UK - they knew. Other organisations didn't have cultural insight. I thought 'how did they know?' It's a huge thing.

Savera UK told me about what safety measures I need to take. They would constantly check on me, the other organisation didn't check on me.

Savera UK really helped in terms of helping me getting my life back.

ALISHA is now safe in permanent accommodation and has returned to work...

She said:

I FEEL LIKE I'VE GOT MY LIFE BACK...

Even now I'm still in that stage of healing – it's taken me a long time. I feel a lot happier. I don't have any worries any more I don't have anyone shout or scream or torture me I live my own life, do my own thing, go on with my life. It's good to feel like that."

DIRECT INTERVENTION SERVICE TEAM UPDATE

Savera UK's direct intervention service is dedicated to safeguarding and advocating on behalf of those at risk of, and survivors of, 'honour'-based abuse (HBA) and harmful practices. In addition to working on a one-to-one basis with clients, our specialist team strives to create a welcoming environment for its clients through programmes focusing on empowerment and wellbeing activities.

210 session attendees*

These programmes and activities build clients' independence, self-confidence and help them find their new 'Savera', meaning new beginning in Hindi. It also gives them the opportunity to come together in a safe space and environment to help relieve social isolation, get involved and have fun.

In 2022/2023, drop-in programmes and activities have included:

- Embodied healing workshops
- Self-defence 'Krav Maga' classes
- World dance classes with Movema
- Wellbeing workshop
- Art and poetry workshops as part of the Savera UK client exhibition project for International Women's Day 2023
- Clothes bazaars

"Savera UK is a place where we all love coming together and being women together." - Client

Speaking about self-defence 'Krav Maga' sessions, delivered by Krav Maga System UK, one client said: **"'I feel like I can manage my own safety and take on the world."**

Another client, who took part in art and poetry workshops as part of the International Women's Day project, said: **"After I joined this group, my life has changed. Before I felt alone but now they helped me and made me a strong woman."**

To meet appetite and demand, from April 2023 Savera UK will be increasing the number of programmes and activities and providing a timetable that is developed together with our clients as part of their empowerment and independence.

(*excluding children)

"I enjoyed it because it was filled with fun and very physically and mentally engaging."

"It encouraged me to learn to have fun and dance more without caring who is looking."

"These sessions have given me some confidence in myself."

Savera UK Clients taking part in world dance class sessions with Movema

RESEARCH AND EVIDENCE

Research paper

In September 2022, Savera UK published its first ever academic research, in partnership with the University of Liverpool.

'Honour'-based abuse: A descriptive study of survivor, perpetrator, and abuse characteristics, was published in the Journal of Investigative Psychology and Offender Profiling, and examined survivor, perpetrator, and abuse characteristics in anonymised cases of 'honour'-based abuse (HBA) and harmful practices such as forced marriage and female genital mutilation (FGM), provided by Savera UK.

The key findings from the research were:

- Emotional/psychological abuse and coercive control was the most common characteristic of HBA and harmful practices, present in 90% of coded cases
- Of 66 abuse characteristics identified by researchers, a case of HBA or harmful practices would usually present with around 14 of these characteristics
- Abuse characteristics associated with survivors that are usually highly linked to cases of HBA, such as exploration of identity or sexuality, were present less frequently than expected

"This base rate study highlights the wide range of abuse suffered by 'honour'-based abuse survivors. What was most surprising was the low prevalence of characteristics that have been previously linked with 'honour'-based abuse in Western media. Our study reflects a potentially different 'reality' for these survivors, one which is more nuanced than maybe the public and/ or statutory agencies realise" Professor Louise Almond, University of Liverpool

Future Research

A second paper based on our research, looking at perpetrator types in HBA, has been submitted for publication and is currently under review.

Savera UK and the University of Liverpool are continuing to work together to develop further research that will provide vital information to facilitate better responses from practitioners, create or improve risk assessments and increase early identifications of risk.

"The data around HBA in the UK is so limited and we know that we are only just scratching the surface. By working together, academics, frontline workers, and local and national authorities, we will be able to paint a clearer picture of prevalence of HBA and harmful practices in the UK and gain a deeper understanding of causes and characteristics. With that knowledge we will work to create interventions that will end these practices for good." Afrah Qassim, Savera UK

Domestic Abuse Commissioner, Nicole Jacobs, speaking during the Women's Equality Committee discussion on 'honour'-based abuse. Photo: Parliamentlive.tv

Women's Equality Committee Call for Evidence on HBA

In 2022, the Women's Equality Committee invited evidence submissions reflecting the realities for those at risk and survivors of 'honour'-based abuse, and what obstacles are faced by organisations working to safeguard and prevent it. In its response, Savera UK emphasised the necessity for a commitment to regular, ongoing training of professionals, a universal definition of HBA referred to by all agencies, sole and dedicated focus to HBA in legislation and the effective implementation of any Governmental and Local Authority strategies supported by the necessary funding and resources. Savera UK also called for one centralised database to collect information relating to HBA, including data on survivors, perpetrators and offences.

During the committee meeting, which was broadcast live from Parliament, Domestic Abuse Commissioner, Nicole Jacobs, cited Savera UK's recent research, published in partnership with University of Liverpool, while calling for greater resource into third-sector organisations. She said: **"I really appreciate them now more than ever, especially with the mapping evidence that shows how effective these services are particularly, and how vulnerable they are in terms of funding."** She added: **"We need to have a much more strategic approach to 'by and for' services in general."**

CAMPAIGNS AND EVENTS

Savera UK campaigns and delivers events to raise awareness and to educate people about HBA and harmful practices, ensure survivors' voices are heard, challenge harmful misconceptions and encourage those at risk to come forward and seek help. Here are the campaigns and events the Savera UK team has delivered between April 2022 and March 2023.

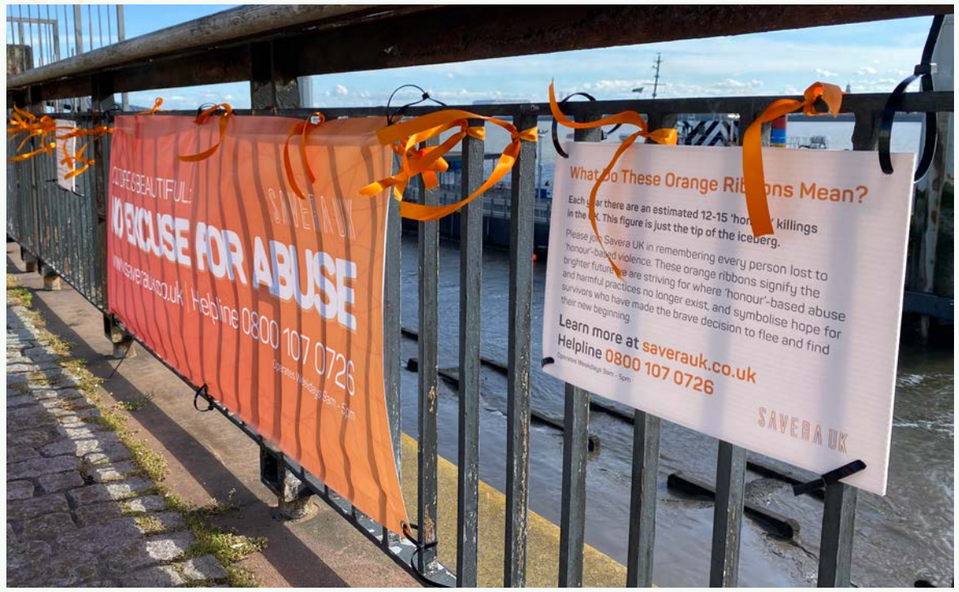
DAY OF MEMORY

On July 14th Savera UK marked the Day of Memory, remembering those lost to 'honour' killings and 'honour'-based abuse, this year we wanted to raise the awareness among the public, with a ribbon-tying ceremony on Liverpool's waterfront which included guests speaker Chief Superintendent of Merseyside Police, Ngaire Waine, emphasised the importance of Merseyside Police's partnership with Savera UK.

50 attendees

6,299 social media reach

28 blog visits



Savera UK Chair Aislinn O'Dwyer and Chief Superintendent of Merseyside Police, Ngaire Waine

Asylum Link Choir perform on Liverpool's waterfront

"Recently Savera UK helped us where we had a victim who was an asylum seeker and her friends were very reticent to talk to Merseyside Police. Savera UK came in and spoke to that community and gave them the confidence to speak up for their friend to Merseyside Police. We would have never got that result without Savera UK.

"Strategically Savera UK has helped us doing cross-agency training on harmful practices and also sit on a strategic board about how we can raise awareness about harmful practices. This is one of our priorities within Violence Against Women and Girls programme of work because we get hardly any reports.

"I agree that is not because it's not happening, that's because people aren't coming forward and don't have the confidence. We're keen at any opportunity to raise awareness about what harmful practices are and what the signs are." - Merseyside Police Chief Superintendent Ngaire Waine

Read more about this event here.

Panellists Louise Almond, Professor in Investigative and Forensic Psychology, University of Liverpool, Professor Khatidja Chantler, Professor of Gender, Equalities & Communities at Manchester Metropolitan University, Afrah Qassim, CEO and Founder of Savera UK and Professor Michelle McManus, Professor in Criminal Justice and Safeguarding at Northumbria University.

UNDERSTANDING HBA RESEARCH FINDINGS EVENT

In January 2022, Savera UK and the University of Liverpool hosted an event to share findings from ongoing research, to discuss the practical implications and potential for future research into the complex and challenging nature of HBA and harmful practices.

The event saw academics, professionals from voluntary and statutory services and other frontline workers discussing new information from further research conducted by Savera UK and the university, including perpetrator types in HBA and HBA survivor geographical origin and age.

Read more about the event here.

+80 registered to attend online

25 attended in person

2,618 social media reach

41 blog visits

UNIVERSITY OF LIVERPOOL

In 2022 Savera UK launched its first fundraising campaign, '5k to End HBA', as part of the UN's Orange the World campaign across 16 Days of Activism beginning on 25th November and ending 10th December. Fundraisers took part in the #5kForTheFiveThousand and did the 5k their way through activities including walking, running and swimming.

#5KFORTHE5,000

To encourage the public to continue taking action after the 16 Days of Activism, Savera UK and Zonta London also refreshed the Orange the World toolkit, which was created in partnership for Orange the World 2021. You can find the toolkit here.

£711.25

raised in the campaign period*
(*excluding regular donors)

15

fundraisers

5K TO END HBA MARCH

To mark the beginning of the campaign on 25th November (International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women and Girls) Savera UK, its partners, supporters and fundraisers took part in a march through Liverpool city centre, led by Movema's Sankofa bird, which represents belonging, freedom and overcoming struggles and adversity.

Campaign partners Zonta London joined us with representative Dianne Jeans speaking at the event, along with Merseyside Police and Crime Commissioner Emily Spurrell. During a moment of remembrance a member of the Savera UK team also read the names of those lost to 'honour'-based abuse.

35 people marched

120 people were directly engaged in the march, through speeches, participation and collateral handed out

10,000 people - opportunities to see the march and Savera UK's branding

14,768 social media reach

Phot Gary Lambert

Afrah Qassim interviewed for a feature broadcast on ITV Granada Tonight. Watch here.

The 5k to End HBA fundraiser will return in 2023, sign up to the Savera UK newsletter for further information here.

GROUND-BREAKING INITIATIVE

SETTING THE STORY STRAIGHT

HBA & Harmful Practices Media Guidelines

Savera UK's 'Setting the Story Straight' project, funded by the Lloyds Bank Foundation for England & Wales, worked with survivors, professionals and media to collaboratively develop a set of guidelines for writing about HBA and harmful practices and working with survivors.

The guidelines can be found here:

The campaign included a free webinar (which can be viewed here) in which the results of a survey of professionals working in this area and survivors of HBA and harmful practices were shared and discussed by a panel of professionals, survivors and journalists.

The guidelines have also been shared extensively with local, regional, and national journalists and the organisations that support and represent them.

Since their launch on 29th November 2022

+450 visits to the guidelines and related articles on our website

+100 Media & journalism HE and FE course leaders engaged

Guidelines included on press regulator IPSO's website

The guidelines are currently being reviewed by press regulator IMPRESS policy committee, for inclusion on its site and potential partnership working in future.

"The media plays a powerful role in shaping public opinion which can help to reduce harmful practices like 'honour'-based abuse and genital mutilation for good. As Savera UK has shown, there has been minimal or harmful reporting on these practices, but survivors want to have their voices heard. These guidelines are a really important resource that journalists can use to ensure that they are amplifying the voices of survivors in a responsible way and we're proud to have supported Savera UK to develop them."

Rachel Cain, Public Affairs and National Programmes Officer for the Lloyds Bank Foundation for England & Wales

PARTNERSHIPS

Partnership with Cheshire PCC

In 2022/23 Savera UK has further extended the geographical reach of the charity's services through the launch of a partnership with the Cheshire Police and Crime Commissioner, John Dwyer.

Savera UK CEO and Founder Afrah Qassim with Police and Crime Commissioner for Cheshire John Dwyer. Photo Office of the Cheshire PCC

The partnership will ensure that life-saving services are available to survivors and those at risk of 'honour'-based abuse (HBA) and harmful practices in Cheshire.

Through funding provided by the Commissioner, the charity has increased its workforce to provide its specialist service across the region. This opportunity will allow us to safeguard and advocate on behalf of those at risk of HBA and harmful practices in Cheshire and work together to increase awareness through training and education.

"I am delighted to be working with Savera UK, the direct intervention, safeguarding and advocacy that they provide to communities across Cheshire is vital. 'Honour'-based abuse is often under-reported and can be referred to as a 'hidden-crime' because of this. By having Savera UK's provision in our county, it may just give people the confidence they need to come forward and report their experiences.

"Protecting vulnerable and at-risk people is a priority in my Police and Crime Plan, and those at risk of 'honour'-based abuse can be some of the most vulnerable in our society. I am looking forward to working alongside Savera UK to ensure survivors get the safeguarding and support that they need in order to rebuild their lives."
John Dwyer, Police and Crime Commissioner for Cheshire.

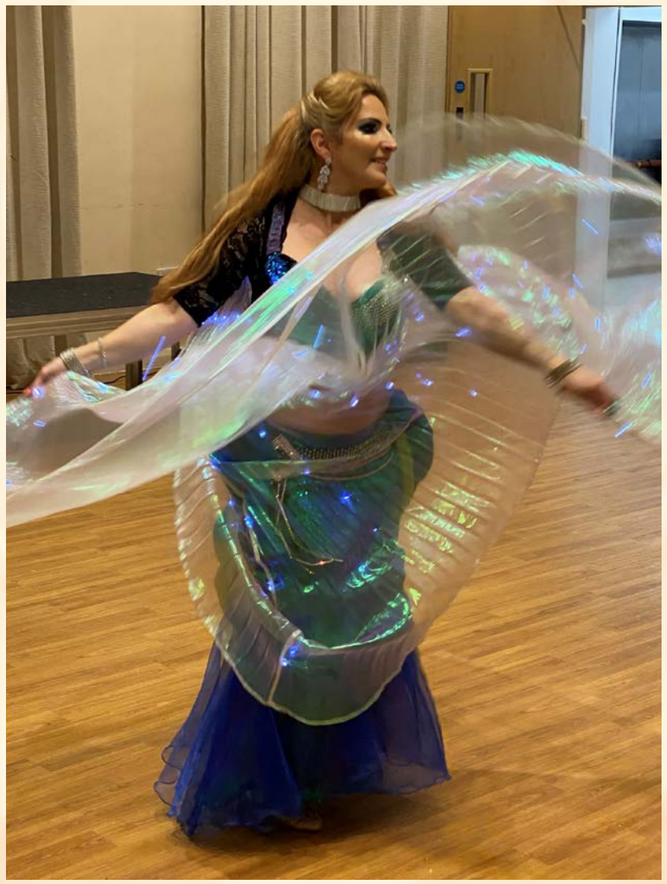
COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND PARTNERSHIPS

Savera UK works within communities to directly reach those who could be affected by HBA and harmful practices, and to educate leaders in positions of authority. These are some of the ways Savera UK has engaged with communities between April 2022 and March 2023. International Women's Day Partnership Celebration

International Women's Day Partnership Celebration
This year Savera UK teamed up with a host of other partners to deliver a community-focused celebration event. The event brought together women from different communities in one celebration of culture which included dinner, dancing, performances by asylum and migrant women and speeches from inspirational women within our diverse communities.

Partners included Merseyside Police and Crime Commissioner, Central Liverpool Primary Care Network, Mary Seacole House, Whisc, RASA Merseyside, Women Reach Women CIC and Lajna Ima'illah.

135
attendees



Merseyside Police and Crime Commissioner Emily Spurrell with CEO of Kuumba Imani Millenium Centre Michelle Charters

Speakers at the International Day of Memory Celebration

Kellie Rostron of Mary Seacole House, said:
"It was a pleasure being involved and all our service users who attended thoroughly enjoyed themselves. It was important for us to be involved as we support so many women in the community who often put their own health and wellbeing aside to care for their families or loved ones. We wanted them to be able to embrace the evening and enjoy themselves and value how much they are worth."

Our guests said:
"The event was great, thank you for creating warm welcoming space"

"Thank you for keeping it a safe space and being cognisant of everyone in the room"

"Everything was perfect, a wonderful night"

5,646
social media reach

20
Women from 20 different racial minorities attended

FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION (FGM) AND LIFE STAGES EVENT
On February 8th to mark Zero Tolerance Day of FGM, Savera UK held an event for survivors called 'FGM an Life Stages'. The session, twinned with Oxford Against Cutting's webinar of the same name, was a space for survivors to discuss the impact FGM has had on them during various stages of their life. In one poignant moment, a survivor came forward to discuss their experience, having never done so before, after hearing the story of Savera UK Survivor Ambassador, Babs Ceesay.

"I think it is important we have events like this to help survivors. Many do not understand what they are going through and some do not know how to access care. These events help them understand that they are not alone in this fight. Furthermore, they will understand that other people are willing to help and support them to overcome their fears."

"I talk about my experience because it is therapeutic for me. The more I talk about it, the more I gain control over my fears and trauma. I believe that sharing our experiences will empower more survivors to speak out. As a result, there will be more awareness about FGM and other harmful practices."
Savera UK Survivor Ambassador, Babs Ceesay.

You can read more about this event here.

Savera UK Survivor Ambassador Babs Ceesay, Savera UK CEO Afrah Qassim, Savera UK team member Bea, Merseyside Police Detective Constable Victoria Kelly

OxfordAgainstCutting
ProtectingGirls&Women

LIVERPOOL LOVES YOU AND PRIDE IN LIVERPOOL

Savera UK attended the 'Liverpool Loves You' event at Liverpool Parish Church on 14th May, which marked International Day Against Homophobia, Transphobia and Biphobia and offered an alternative, faith-led event to Franklin Graham's controversial 'God Loves You' tour, which took place on the same day.

As well as engaging visitors and showing visible support to the LGBT+ community, our team met and reconnected with a range of local partners and civic guests, for future collaborative working. In a further show of support for LGBT+ people, we joined Liverpool's annual 'March with Pride', alongside 12,000 others.

500

attendees

20

people directly engaged

12,000

joined the 'March with Pride'

MENTAL HEALTH AND WELLBEING FAIR

To mark World Mental Health Day on 10th October 2022, Savera UK hosted a community event inviting Merseyside-based organisations to attend and share information about their services. The catered event also included mini-guided meditations from Blackburne House and interactive zine making from Comics Youth CIC.

15 organisations represented

Emily and Kay, Comics Youth

Amy, WEB Merseyside

Liv, Hope University

"Savera UK do critical work raising awareness of crimes which are all-too-often hidden from public view, while providing life-changing support for those who are at risk or have been affected by harmful practices.

Through my Victim Care Merseyside service, I'm proud to help commission their work and reach even more vulnerable people in our communities. In the past year, nearly 180 survivors have benefitted from their expert guidance, care and support, while many hundreds more have been educated to help prevent these crimes from happening in the future. My thanks go to the entire team for their dedication, passion and determination to make Merseyside even safer."

Merseyside's Police Commissioner Emily Spurrell

SAVERA UK YOUTH UPDATE

Savera UK Youth are a group of 11-25-year-olds dedicated to ending 'honour'-based abuse and harmful practices through campaigning and raising awareness among their peers.

3,055
website visitors

887
Instagram reach

70
people directly engaged through Savera UK Youth Projects and Events

Savera UK Youth member Kusqaum Adam at the Steve Biko Awards

Awards

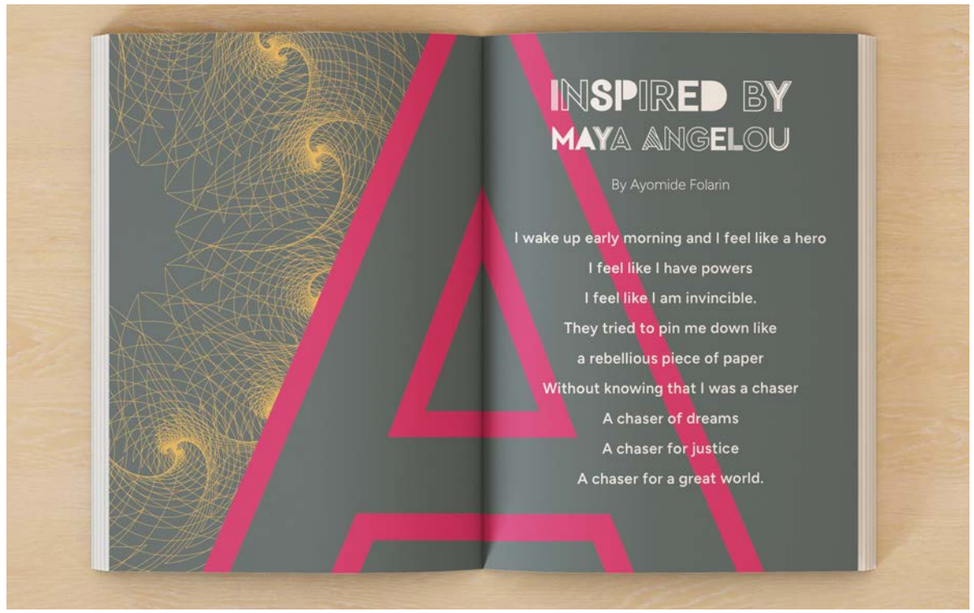
In 2022 Liverpool-based members of Savera UK Youth were awarded Young Person Awards by Steve Biko Housing Association for their commitment to continuing to raise awareness of HBA and harmful practices throughout the pandemic.

The awards were held on 28th October at St George's Hall in Liverpool. Members who received the Steve Biko Housing Association Award 2022 were; Ayo Folarin, Elias Folarin, Hannah Gloudon, Naomi Otubu, Malcom Thwala & Kusqaum Adam.

Interview with Shamsa Araweelo

To mark International Day for Zero Tolerance of FGM in 2023, Savera UK Youth Advisory Board (YAB) Member, Ayo Folarin, interviewed Shamsa Araweelo, an FGM and forced marriage survivor who has gained a large following on TikTok after sharing her story in efforts to educate young audiences on the risks of FGM. Shamsa discussed with Ayo the ongoing impact FGM has had on her life, her campaigning work and her current position as a trainee police officer.

You can read the interview in full here.



Poetry readings

Following poetry workshops with Savera UK, members of Savera UK Youth have attended a variety of events where they read their own poetry. YAB member Ayo read her own poem, 'Inspired by Maya Angelou' as well as poetry by other YAB members to more than 135 people at Savera UK's International Women's Day Celebration. Ayo also saw her work featured on the Instagram account of national domestic abuse charity Refuge.

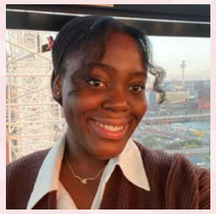
Savera UK Youth Advisory Board member Ayo Folarin reading her poem at the International Women's Day Celebration

Meet the Savera UK Youth Advisory Board 2023

The Savera UK Youth Advisory Board (YAB) is made up of passionate young activists (aged 14 - 25) who dedicate themselves to leading the Savera UK Youth projects and paving the way for change. Each YAB member is dedicated to ending HBA and harmful practices and tirelessly work towards that mission through awareness raising and campaigning.

Hannah, 24,
Greater Manchester (YAB Chair)
"I joined the YAB as I support all the wonderful work that Savera UK and Savera UK Youth do. Working together as a YAB group member has been an impactful experience for me personally."

Elias, 21,
Liverpool
Elias, a university student studying law, said he joined the YAB because "it was a perfect opportunity to meet other young people whilst undertaking projects that would help make a positive change within the community."



Ayo, 23,
Liverpool
"Hi! My name is Ayo, I am a social worker student. I have the strong belief that if you want to see change in the world you need to be part of the change."

Adele, 16,
Gloucestershire
Adele is a Year 11 student from Hong Kong and joined the YAB "to back a grassroots with a mission: supporting those impacted by harmful practices, with an approach not underpinned by postulation but from a stand-point of shared humanity."

Anushka, 20,
York/Oxford
Anushka is a social and political science student at the University of York. She joined the YAB after a student placement at Savera UK. She said: "I realised that after placement, I still wanted to help Savera UK and be part of the wonderful change they are making."

Beth, 20,
Liverpool
"Hiya, I'm Beth! This is my first year at YAB so I'm excited to begin working with the group and start serving in our local community."

Gayatri, 20,
London
"Hi! I'm Gayatri, and I'm currently a 2nd year Economics student at university in London. I joined the YAB around two years ago when I was on my gap year and was looking for volunteering opportunities that aligned with the topics I am most passionate about."

Laura, 22,
Liverpool
"Hi, I am Laura. Earlier this year, I became a YAB member for Savera UK as I wanted to be part of something that has a positive impact on people's lives."

Meet Savera UK's Young Ambassador

Former Savera UK Youth Advisory Board Chair Malcolm Thwala has been involved with Savera UK Youth since its inception in 2017. Over the last six years he has advocated for change on behalf of Savera UK, and is devoted to engaging communities and increasing the reach of the organisation's message. In January 2023 Malcolm became Savera UK's first Young Ambassador, and will work with us to continue giving young people a seat at the table and to have their voices heard when discussing how we eliminate HBA and harmful practices.

Malcolm said: "I am so happy to be able to continue my journey with Savera UK as the Young Ambassador. I learned many different skills as a member of the YAB, including poetry and photography, project managing and event hosting. I gained confidence and now I'm able to use that experience to inform and educate newer members of the group while also working with Savera UK to ensure young voices are always heard. I'm excited to start this next chapter with the organisation and learn even more about how we can end harmful practices."

SAVERA UK YOUTH

ORANGE BRICK ROAD PROJECT

Savera UK Youth are dedicated to educating their peers on 'honour'-based abuse (HBA) and harmful practices to raise awareness among younger generations and to help signpost those at risk. This was their aim as they formed the concept for the Orange Brick Road video, which takes viewers on a journey to learn about the issues, and the Savera UK Youth Education Pack.

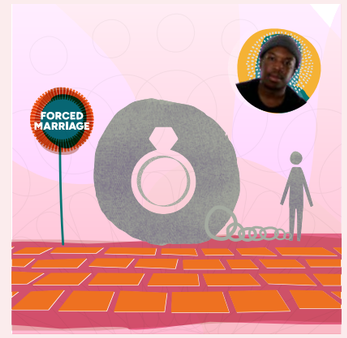
Video development

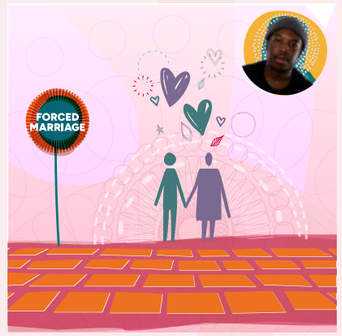
Having held a focus group with students at Childwall Sports and Science Academy alongside brand and design agency, Nonconform, the Youth Advisory Board (YAB) concluded the most engaging resource for their peers would be a video specifically designed for social media.

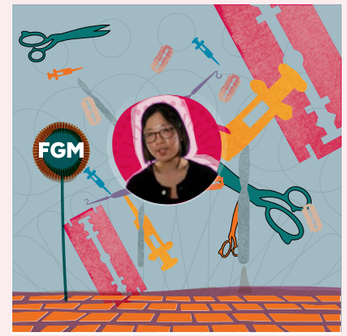
Savera UK Youth then worked with writer, Natalie Denny, of Skywriters Ltd, to craft a script for the video and form the concept of the 'Orange Brick Road', to take the audience on a journey that would explain HBA and harmful practices.

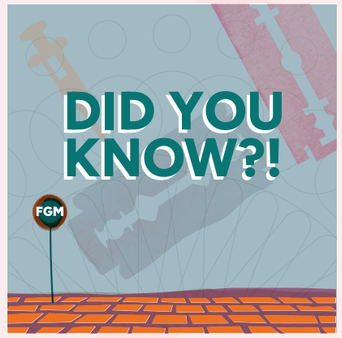
Savera UK Youth members filmed the video in sessions with Andrew 'AB' Abrahamson where they had the opportunity to learn about direction, sound, lighting and equipment. YAB members Adele and Malcolm appear in the film as narrators.

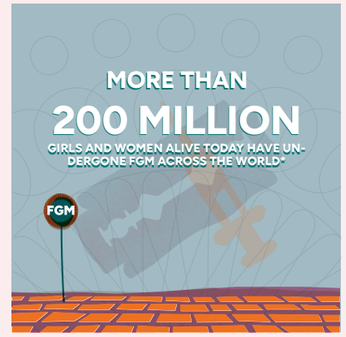
The video was launched at an in-person event at Liverpool John Moores University (LJMU) during UK Parliament Week, a week that encourages young people's engagement with parliament. Savera UK Youth spoke at the event to discuss the project, and we also heard from speakers including Former Chief Crown Prosecutor for the North West Nazir Afzal OBE and LJMU Lecturer in Law Hannah Baumeister.











Education pack

The Orange Brick Road video was launched alongside an Education Pack for educators and professionals, to aid them in effectively teaching students about HBA and harmful practices. The pack includes a set of activities and discussion points as well as fact sheets for further information and a letter from the YAB outlining their mission.

If you would like to use the Savera UK Youth Education Pack, you can register your interest by completing this form.

"I learned a lot from my experience partaking in the Orange Brick Road short film. It's so easy to be disempowered by your influence in the scheme of things, but there are so many substantial things you can do to tackle 'honour'-based abuse. Educating yourself is often the first step."
Adele Leung, Savera UK Youth Advisory Board Member

Savera UK Youth made a very powerful video to educate their peers about 'honour'-based abuse and harmful practices. The video clearly demonstrates their research and communication skills as well as their creativity. The lively discussion that followed the viewing confirmed that the video works for a diverse audience. I was impressed with the confidence and competence with which Savera UK Youth members presented their work and responded to questions. They are inspiring role models for their peers."
Hannah Baumeister, Lecturer in Law at LJMU

THE FUTURE FOR SAVERA UK

Looking at this report, you might notice that we look a little different.

Over the past year we have been working to develop our first ever formal strategy, to enable us to grow the charity, its services and activities and its impact. This has created a roadmap for Savera UK's mission to end HBA and harmful practices.

Our Vision
A world without 'honour'-based abuse and harmful practices

Our Mission
To end 'honour'-based abuse and harmful practices

Brand refresh & the Savera UK Learning Hub
In tandem, we have refreshed our brand and redeveloped our website, with a new look and functionality for www.saverauk.co.uk and www.saveraukyouth.co.uk, which includes online referral forms both for professionals and individuals.

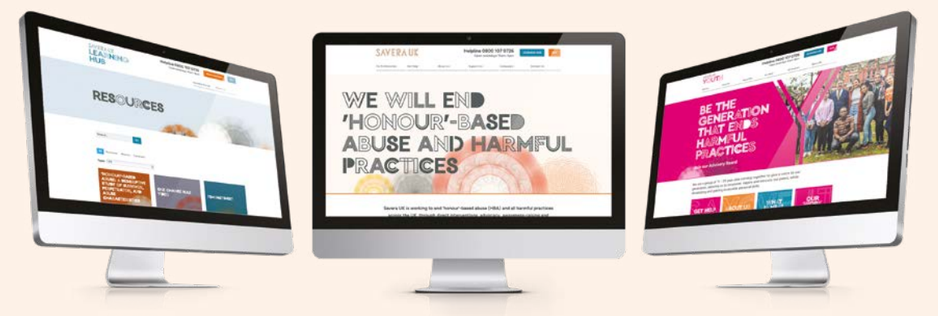
We have also launched our Savera UK Learning Hub, a library of resources and information about HBA and harmful practices, with videos, guidance, factsheets, leaflets and much more, all accessible at www.saverauklearninghub.co.uk

Our three-year plan
From our first formal strategy we have set out our three-year plan, which focuses on two key strategic objectives, each with a set of deliverables by 2026.

We will improve the lives of people who have experienced/are experiencing 'honour'-based abuse and harmful practices

We will improve attitudes, behaviours and systemic responses around 'honour'-based abuse and harmful practices

What we will do
Reaching our goal is everyone's responsibility, it is a collective problem that we must work together to resolve. Through our work, we will mobilise professionals, voluntary and statutory services, government and individuals to work collaboratively to do this.



We will work together to give a **VOICE** to our cause and survivors, through advocacy, education, campaigning and training. We will **RELENTLESSLY** pursue **LASTING CHANGE** in attitudes, education, communities and policy, fearlessly **ADVOCATING to end 'honour'-based abuse and harmful practices.**

What We Will Achieve
By 2026, we will:

- Improve interventions, information and response to survivors and those at risk or under threat of HBA and harmful practices
- Improve recognition and understanding of the specific issues of HBA and harmful practices among professionals, affected communities, young people and the general public
- Reduce isolation and improve confidence and resilience in survivors of HBA and harmful practices
- Influence local, national and international policy and drive cultural change and provision for best response on HBA and harmful practices
- Amplify the voices of survivors and empower them to share their stories to educate, inform and enact change
- Increase the network of local, regional, national and international organisations that we work and collaborate with to extend the reach of our message
- Gain national visibility for the work of our team
- Increase the reach of our key messages, including what HBA and harmful practices are, how to signpost to help, advocacy and advice from Savera UK, and how a 'new beginning' is possible for survivors

If you are a funder or organisation that is interested in joining our mission and working with us to end HBA and harmful practices, and you would like more information, please contact us on **info@saverauk.co.uk**

GET INVOLVED: VOLUNTEER FOR SAVERA UK

We need passionate activists who care about social justice, equality and human rights.

As a Savera UK volunteer you will learn more about 'honour'-based abuse (HBA) and harmful practices, and what can be done to end 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 HBA and harmful practices and will be guided by our team. At Savera UK you will have the opportunity to learn new skills, gain experience and have a real, positive impact.

Click here to apply to become a Savera UK volunteer!

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

"It's been such a pleasure to volunteer at Savera UK. I've been warmly welcomed into a team of inspiring individuals dedicated to such an important mission and who've made a visible effort to cater to the skills and experiences I hoped to gain from my time there. It's felt so valuable to gain practical experience within a non-profit organisation whose social impact truly excites me."
Beth, volunteer at Savera UK

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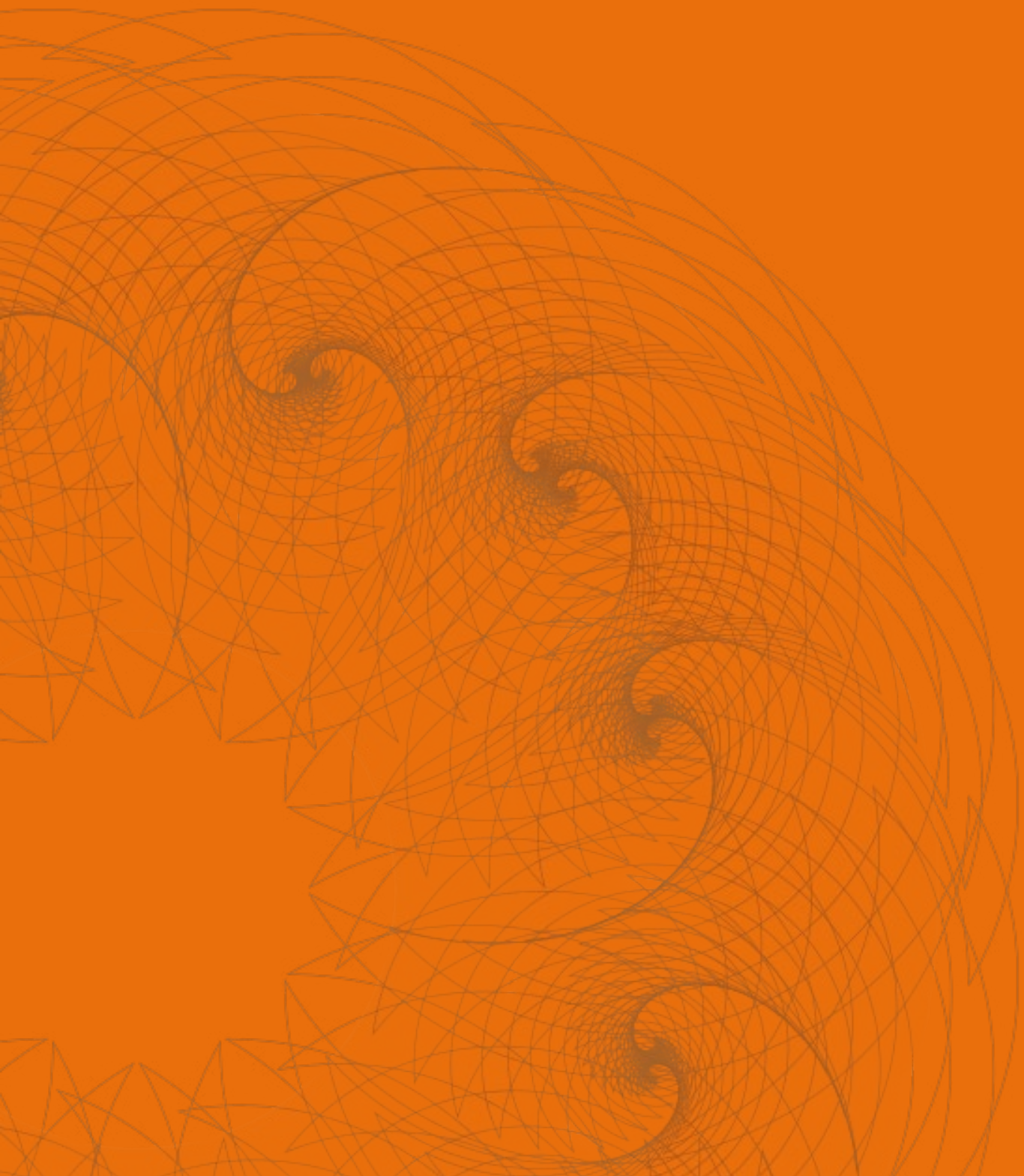
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