

Safeguarding 7-minute briefing: Honour-based violence and abuse

Questions to consider

- Who is at risk?
- Do I know the signs?
- Am I clear on what I need to do if someone makes a disclosure?
- Find out more [Devon and Cornwall Police](#)

What to do

Take all disclosures seriously. Know the signs. Never turn a person away. You may only have one chance to save a life!

For young people under 18 years, HBVA is a child protection issue – Talk to your DSL

Immediate risk - call 999 or contact Police on 101

Refer to MARU on 0300 123 1116

[Karma Nirvana](#) on 0800 5999 247.

[The Forced Marriage Unit](#) on 0207008 0151

[Njenni Enterprise](#) on 0780 777 4585

The Lily Project (CRASAC) on 01872 262100

Further Information

HBVA may be committed against people who: become involved with a partner from a different culture or religion; want to get out of an arranged marriage; want to avoid a forced marriage; or who wear clothes or take part in activities that might not be considered traditional. When arranging protection, it is important to carry out a thorough assessment of the ability and potential of the family to locate and harm the victim. When working with victims it is important to establish a means of making secure and confidential contact at the earliest opportunity as they may not be able to ask for help a second time

Background

So called Honour based violence & abuse (HBVA) is a collection of practices, used to control behaviour within families, in order to protect perceived cultural and religious beliefs and/or honour. Violence can occur when perpetrators perceive that a relative has shamed the family and/or community by breaking their honour code. Girls and women are most often the victims of honour based abuse but it can also affect boys and men.

Why it matters

In the year ending March 2021, there were **2,725** HBA-related offences recorded by the police in England and Wales. Home Office figures suggest that there are approximately 12-15 'honour killings' in the UK per year. This does not take into account the many women and young girls who are taken abroad by their families and never seen again. The many hidden elements of 'honour abuse' include suicide, self-harm and missing people.

Information

Although most cases in the UK involve South Asian families (reflecting our large South Asian community), 'honour' abuse can exist in any culture where men are in a position to control women. Examples include: Turkish; Kurdish; Afghani; South Asian; African; Middle Eastern; South and Eastern European; Romany and Traveller communities. Honour abuse is rejected by every major world religion

Information

Crimes committed in the name of 'honour' include: sexual or psychological abuse, domestic abuse, child abuse, rape, kidnapping, false imprisonment, female genital mutilation, threats to kill, forced marriage and murder. Many of these crimes are committed by more than one individual. Families that are widely spread across the country may make certain areas unsafe for people at risk of HBVA. Families may deploy their networks to locate an individual, e.g. by circulating photographs within a taxi service; or asking a relative with access to official records to gain confidential information.



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[Click here for quiz](#)

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