

HONOUR BASED VIOLENCE/ABUSE (HBV)

What is honour based violence/abuse?

Honour based violence/abuse is a violent crime or incident which may have been committed to protect or defend the honour of the family or community. 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. For example, HBV might be committed against people who:

- Talk to or interact freely with men
- Become involved with a boyfriend or girlfriend from a different culture or religion
- Separate or divorce/want to get out of an arranged or forced marriage
- Become pregnant or give birth outside of marriage
- Wear clothes or take part in activities that might not be considered traditional within a particular culture

HBV should be viewed as a type of domestic violence as it is motivated by the desire to control another person. HBV does not always include violence but can be threats of violence or psychological abuse. They can include

- Forced marriage
- Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)
- Domestic violence
- Sexual harassment/violence/assault
- Social ostracism or rejection and emotional pressure
- Isolation from friend and family
- Denial of access to means of communication e.g. phone/access to passport
- Being LGBT
- Kidnapping/threats to kill

Restoring honour or 'izzat' is viewed as being more important than anything else.

Honour based violence is mainly aimed at girls or women, however, data released by the Forced Marriage unit in 2016 revealed that 20% of the cases in England and Wales the victims were male.

What may cause you to have concerns that someone maybe a victim of HBV?

- Unexplained absences (especially lengthy ones)
- Decline in performance at school, work or college.
- Depression, anxiety or suicidal thoughts.
- Physical changes – weight loss, unexplained marks or bruising to their face or body.
- Extreme secrecy about relationships
- Their communications, such as mobile phone or social media, are monitored or restricted (especially if they are over 16 years old).
- They are strictly forbidden from wearing certain clothes, make-up etc. and are expressing anxiety over it or significantly changing their appearance before returning home.
- They appear scared of their family/express feelings of being unsafe

There are 12 -15 reported honour killings in the UK each year.

If you know or suspect anyone subject to 'honour'-based violence there are several organisations you can contact:

Freephone 24 Hour National Domestic Abuse Helpline on 0808 2000 247

Forced Marriage Unit on +44 (0) 20 7008 0151 or [Forced marriage - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/forced-marriage)

[Karma Nirvana](https://www.karnanirvana.org.uk/) is a registered charity in the UK, dedicated to helping victims of forced marriage and honour-based crime.

Call them for free on 0800 5999 247

True Honour also offer advice and support to victims of all types of honour-based violence. They can be contacted by phone on 07480 6217110 or email at contact@truehonour.org.uk

Safeguarding

In case of an immediate referral contact Integrated Contact Referral team (ICRT)

Children's Safeguarding	8.30am to 5.15pm Monday to Thursday, and 8.30am to 4.45pm Friday	0191 561 7007
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The Out of Hours Team	Available Monday-Thursday 5.15-8.30am and from Friday 4.45pm - until Monday 8.30am. 24 hours Saturday and Sunday	0191 520 5552
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A written referral must be sent within one working day to
safeguarding.children@togetherforchildren.org.uk

In the case of an Allegation

Designated Officer (LADO)	lado@togetherforchildren.org.uk	0191 561 3901
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Early Help

Early Help Advice and Allocations Team	Early Help Together for Children	0191 561 4084
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For more information

SSCP Sunderland Safeguarding Children Partnership - Home Page
(safeguardingchildrensunderland.com)

[What is honour-based violence? | Forms, Physical & Mental & Help \(cpdonline.co.uk\)](#)

[Honour Based Violence in the UK \(haloproject.org.uk\)](http://haloproject.org.uk)

[Jasvinder Sanghera - My Story - YouTube](#)

[Refuge Against Domestic Violence - Help for women & children.](#)

Brought to you by the Childcare Team:

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