

Support Services

Directorate



KENT POLICE

ESSEX POLICE



Supporting policing
in Kent and Essex

Honour Based Abuse

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PC 3300 Nicola Pain

Aims and Objectives

To ensure you have an awareness of:

- Honour Based Abuse
- Female Genital Mutilation and
- Forced Marriage

Explain and recognise the barriers for victims to report to police.

Know how to get help.

National Police Chiefs Council's

DEFINITION of HBA

An incident or crime involving violence, threats of violence, intimidation, coercion or abuse (including psychological, physical, sexual, financial or emotional abuse), which has or may have been committed to protect or defend the honour of an individual, family and or community for alleged or perceived breaches of the family and / or community's code of behaviour.

What does Honour Mean?

“It’s like the weather - always there and unquestionable”

- *“IZZAT” is an Asian term for HONOUR.*
- *An unwritten book of rules taught from an early age.*
- *Families women in particular **MUST** abide by.*
- *It does not only affect females.*
- *Dishonour must not be brought to the family.*

The Saying.....

“Men are like gold & women are like silk.”

- If you drop gold in a muddy puddle you can wipe it and clean it.
- If you drop Silk in a muddy puddle it remains stained.

Code of Conduct

Women are taught to:

- Cook, Clean, Sew and look after the family.
- No education required to be a housewife.
- Told how to dress, how to behave inside and outside of the house.
- Who to talk to, who to marry, who to have as friends.
- Gay and Lesbian relationships are forbidden.

Risk and Triggers

- Resisting forced marriage
- Wanting a divorce
- Choosing own partner
- Becoming too “westernised”
- Having sex before marriage/getting pregnant outside of marriage
- Owning a mobile phone/learning to drive/smoking/drinking
- Perceived inappropriate dress - wearing make up, refusing to wear headscarf
- Making own decisions
- Wanting to continue an education
- Being LGBT

Honour Crimes

- Domestic Abuse
- FGM
- Forced Marriage
- Acid Attacks
- Forced Repatriation
- Male Child Preference/Selective Abortion
- Contract killings



Indicators of HBA

- Unreasonable restrictions of freedom.
- Monitored by Siblings, Cousins, Family and the wider community.
- Hiding mobile phones, social media, having secret friends.
- No aspirations post 16: Self harming:
- Running away from home, Truancy, Absence and persistent absence

Indicators of HBA

- Request for extended leave:
- Failure to return from visits to country of origin:
- Reports of threats to kill, emotional blackmail extreme victim risk perceptions.

Victims often feel they only have the following choices:

Submit - Leave - Die

Barriers for Reporting

- Fear of being labelled dishonourable
- Lack of information and access to services available to help
- Lack of awareness of HBA by those in authority
- Language difficulties
- Impact on family/community relations and standing
- Disownment/Ostracised from community
- Displacement/isolation/loss of identity
- Fear of being found, bounty hunters, reprisals

Myths

- Honour Crime has nothing to do with religion; Perpetrators may try to justify their actions on religious grounds
- Honour Related Violence is not a Muslim related phenomenon;
- It occurs in differing forms in societies, religious communities, non-religious communities or national communities.

Honour victims



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Approach

- Do **NOT** send a victim away
- Do **NOT** approach members of the family or community unless expressly asked to do so
- Do **NOT** share information without their consent
- Do **NOT** breach confidentiality
- Do **NOT** attempt to mediate, this increases the risk to the victim
- **Do** *Realise that honour killing is a family matter and very often is preceded by a family meeting or a series of telephone discussions, Emails, SMS etc...*

You have one chance to get it right!

Considerations when dealing with 'Honour' crime

- **Establish cultural origin of family**
Who are the victim's relatives in this country? Drawing a family tree can clarify inter-relationships. Who is the head of the family? Are they in this country?
- **Who is the victim at risk from?** Think of the wider community.
- **Do not assume that relationships referred to are the same as you understand them.**
- **Arrange code word if thought necessary.**
- **Consider advice re 'Spoon in knickers'**
- **Multi agency approach - make it clear what your concerns are around Honour.**

Remember

Challenging the concept of honour dramatically raises the stakes for the community

NEVER UNDERESTIMATE PERPETRATORS OF HONOUR BASED ABUSE.

THEY REALLY DO KILL THEIR CLOSEST RELATIVES AND/OR OTHERS FOR WHAT MIGHT SEEM A TRIVIAL OR RUMOURED TRANSGRESSION.

Forced Marriage

Forced marriage is a marriage where one or both persons do not (or, in the case of some adults with learning or physical disabilities, cannot) consent to the marriage and duress is involved.

Duress includes physical, psychological, financial, sexual and emotional pressure.

(Law came into force on 16th June 2014)



Forced Marriage

- NOT the same as arranged marriage.
- Most cases involve females between 11 and 40 years
- Male are also victims
- In some cases victims do not know they are subject of forced marriage. Brought up to believe that it is the norm.
- Marriage contracts are often drawn up when children are young and become a binding agreement between two families (If someone disengages from the contract it brings great shame on the family).
- Forced marriages can occur in this country or abroad.
- Not just a south Asian problem, affects countries across the globe.
- Dowries may form part of the agreement.
- LGBT - Males and females who are anything other than heterosexual may be forced into marriage to conceal their sexuality.

Forced Marriage Unit

Offer confidential advice and assistance to :

- Those who have been forced into marriage

- Those at risk of being forced into marriage

- People worried about friends/relatives

- Professionals working with victims/potential victims of forced marriage

Contact the Forced Marriage Unit for help - even if you don't want to apply for an order

Forced Marriage Protection Orders

A FMPO can be obtained for the purpose of protecting :

- **A person being forced into a marriage or from any attempt to be forced into a marriage; or**
- **A person who has been forced into a marriage.**

(A FMPO can include restrictions/requirements naming several people and can relate to conduct either within or outside the UK.)

Copies of FMPO's will be kept within CRU and also recorded on PNC. The Force Solicitor will make all arrangements to obtain the FMPO. Only certain courts involved.

An application for an FMPO can be done alongside a criminal prosecution.

In certain cases other orders can be considered (Police Protection Order, Injunction, Protection from Harassment, DVPN, etc.)

Female Genital Mutilation



Definition as per the World Health Organisation:

‘The partial or total removal of the female genitalia for cultural or other non-therapeutic reasons.’

4 types of FGM

Prevalence

More than 28 Countries in:

- More than 28 Countries in Africa and Middle East
- India, Pakistan, Egypt, Turkey, Iran, Iraq, Syria, Malaysia, Indonesia
- Australia, UK and throughout Europe due to migration

The Procedure



- No Anaesthetic
- Non Surgical Environment
 - No Surgical Training
 - No Surgical Tools
- Legs bound for 2 weeks



FGM COMPLICATIONS

- Shock, severe pain, blackouts
- Haemorrhaging and infection
- Urinary tract infections
- Death - at least 10% of victims
- Infertility
- Complications/infections during childbirth
- Painful sexual intercourse
- Psychosexual, physiological and social problems
- Risk of HIV/AIDS infection
- Broken limbs due to being physically restrained

Why is FGM practiced?

- Culture and tradition
- Promotion of social standing
- Ensuring compliance with community norm
- Seen as unclean if not cut
- Family honour /increase in matrimonial opportunities
- Promotes chastity and virginity
- Male sexual satisfaction
- Reduces sexual exploration

FGM Indicators (About to happen)

- Female Elder is around:
- Professional may hear of reference to FGM:
- The girl confides in someone of a “Special Procedure” or “To become a woman”:
- Child out of the country for a prolonged period:
- Taken at the start/before school holidays.

FGM Indicators (Has happened)

- Female confides in a professional
- Prolonged / repeated absences
- Difficulty walking / Sitting
- Frequent urinary problems
- Reluctantly to undergo examinations
- Broken or dislocated limbs

Who is at risk?

- 2 Million girls around the world are mutilated per year;
- Age 0 - adulthood.

Prevalence of FGM in the UK.

- Estimated **137,000** women living with FGM within the UK
- **60,000** girls under the age of 15 are at risk of FGM.

NSPCC have had over 1500 calls regarding FGM and 1/3 of these calls have resulted in a referral to the police.

Health & Social Care Info Centre provided the following data:

- **5391** newly recorded cases of FGM have been reported in 2016/2017
- **106** girls under 18 were reported to have undergone FGM in 2015/2016
- **43** cases involved women or children born in the UK

Considerations when dealing with FGM

- The procedure may be carried out when the girl is new-born, during childhood or adolescence, just before marriage or during pregnancy.
- If considered usual practice within the family, this may increase the risk of harm to the victim from family or the wider community.
- To be considered when dealing with a missing person and updating family on their whereabouts or returning the person home.
- If the victim is a child, then a Child Protection Referral needs to be made to Social Care, FGM places a child at risk of serious harm.
- Consider the one chance rule
- Protection warnings and witness protection may need to be considered.
- Seize passport
- Handle with sensitivity as the mothers believe that they are safeguarding their daughters.

The Female Genital Mutilation Act

The Act was introduced in 2003 (came into effect in 2004 replacing a 1985 act):

- Makes it illegal to practise FGM in the UK:
- Makes it illegal to take girls who are British Nationals or permanent residents of the UK abroad for FGM whether or not it is lawful in that country:
- Makes it illegal to aid, abet, counsel or procure the carrying out of FGM abroad:
- Has a penalty of up to 14 years imprisonment and/or a fine.

Recent law amendments

Serious Crime Act 2015:

1. Anonymity of victims
2. Offence of failing to protect a girl from risk of FGM - Section 3A.

If a genital mutilation offence is committed against a girl under the age of 16, each person who is responsible for the girl at the relevant time is guilty of an offence.

Responsible person:

- 1) Has parental responsibility for the girl, and has frequent contact with her.
- 2) Is aged 18 or over, and has assumed responsibility for caring for the girl in the manner of a parent.

Duty to notify police

Professionals working within healthcare, social care and teaching **must make a notification to police** if they discover FGM appears to have been carried out on a girl U18.

- 1) Where **the girl informs the person** that an act of FGM has been carried out on her.
- 2) Where **the person observes physical signs on the girl** appearing to show that an act of FGM has been carried out on her.

FGM Protection Orders

- Protect a girl **against the commission** of a genital mutilation offence, or
 - Protect a girl **against whom any such offence has been committed**
- * Victim, relative or 3rd party can apply
- * Social services can apply for an FGMPO to protect a child U18yrs, or a person over 18yrs who is considered vulnerable

BARNARDO'S

Since 2015, leading a pioneering £2.1m prevention programme on FGM

The National FGM Centre - partnership programme run by Barnardo's and Local Government Association, funded by the Department for Education's Innovation Fund. - intention to transform the way FGM is tackled.

Barnardo's FGM specialists are affiliated with many agencies

Police – work with FGM specialists in the MARATS
Op Limelight – airport operations to tackle FGM

Partnership Approach

- Police Officers:
- Border Force:
- Special Branch:
- UKBA Investigations:
- Safeguarding Teams:
- Social Services.
- National Crime Agency:
- Education Authorities:
- Op Limelight:
- UKHTC (Human Trafficking)
- NHS:
- Port Security.

For advice when dealing with HBA, FGM and Forced Marriage

Speak to:

Central Referral Unit at HQ Extension **180300**

LPA Op Juno Teams

HBA performance and review officers:

PC 3284 Caroline Cudby - Extension **489263**

PC 3300 Nicola Pain - Extension **150251**