



Honour Based Abuse and Forced Marriage

WHAT IS THE 'ONE CHANCE RULE'?

You may only have one chance to save the life of a person who is at risk or under threat of 'Honour' -Based Abuse (HB) and harmful practices (forced marriage and female genital mutilation). They may only have one chance to make a disclosure, meaning you only have one chance to save and protect a life. This means that we all need to be aware of our responsibilities and obligations when we come across those at risk. If a person at risk is not listened to or taken seriously and walk out of the door without immediate support and protection being offered, that one chance might be lost and a life lost too.

Warning Signs

Parents who force their children to marry may seek to justify their behaviour, believing that it protects their children, preserves cultural and / or religious traditions, and caters for stronger family relationships. Some other key reasons may include controlling unwanted sexuality, preventing perceived unsuitable relationships, protecting 'family honour', achieving financial gain, ensuring care for a child or adult with additional needs, and assisting claims for residence and citizenship.

Some indicators

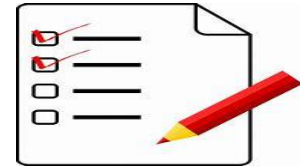
Education: absence / attendance (missing from school); request for extended leave / home education; failure to return from visit to country of origin; surveillance by family / extended family and community; deterioration in behaviour, achievement or punctuality

Health: self-harm; attempted suicide / threats to suicide; eating disorders; substance misuse; depression; pregnancy; always accompanied to appointments

So-called Honour Based Abuse Definition:

'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 and 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'.

ONE CHANCE CHECKLIST Forced Marriage, 'Honour'-Based Abuse (HBA) and Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)



- ✓ Believe the victim
- ✓ See the person at risk on their own – even if they are accompanied by others
- ✓ See the person at risk immediately in a secure and private place where you will not be overheard
- ✓ Reassure the person at risk about confidentiality and explain that you will not give information to family, friends or the community or anyone that can be a risk to their wellbeing
- ✓ Take them seriously and listen to what they are saying; it is crucial to listen to the person at risk or potential victim's concerns – remember that they may not be able to articulate why they believe they are at risk or provide tangible evidence of the risks
- ✓ Explain all the options to the person at risk and possible outcomes
- ✓ Recognise and respect their wishes
- ✓ Assess the risk faced by conducting an appropriate and thorough risk assessment
Remember, cultural acceptance does not mean accepting the unacceptable.
- ✓ Agree a way to make contact safely (for example agree a code word)
- ✓ Obtain full details of the person at risk and record these safely
- ✓ Provide contact details or help the person at risk to memorise your contact details and/or those of a support agency
- ✓ Consider the need for immediate police involvement, protection and placement away from the family and arrange this if necessary; this includes any action to stop the person at risk from being removed from the UK
- ✓ Do everything you can to keep the person at risk safe
- ✓ Get immediate advice if you are not sure what
 - ✓ In cases of potential 'honour'-based abuse, it is essential to consider other siblings and family members that may be experiencing, or at risk of, the same abuse

DO NOT!!!



- Send them away
- Approach members of the family
- Approach members of the community
- Accept family or community members statements without an 'honour'-based abuse targeted risk assessment and the relevant questions being asked
- Attempt mediation, reconciliation (such as family counselling) with the family and/or community members

- Approach the person at risk's family or community leaders/members – this could heighten the risk to them
- Assume it is a racial/cultural or faith issue
- Assume someone / professional from the same cultural/diverse background is best to deal with such a case.
- Share information without consent - discuss with them first before making a decision to contact the family

DO NOT MAKE ATTEMPTS TO CONTACT THE FAMILY OR COMMUNITY MEMBERS – THIS INCREASES RISK AS THEY MAYBE COLLUDING WITH THE ABUSE.

Involving families in cases of 'honour'- based abuse, forced marriage and harmful practices is extremely dangerous and in no circumstances should agencies allow the person's family to find out about any disclosure.

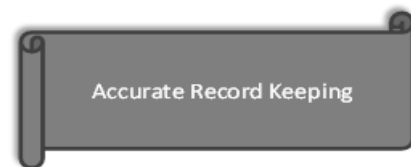
- Family involvement can cause an increased risk of serious harm to the person at risk, including threats to kill, kidnapping, blackmail, false imprisonment, being forced into marriage
- Involving the family includes: visiting the family to ask them about harmful practices or writing a letter to the family requesting a meeting about the 'person at risk' statement
- Relatives, friends, community leaders and neighbours should not be used as interpreters, despite any reassurances from this known person

VICTIM CHECKLIST FOR PROFESSIONALS

1. Consider the need for immediate protection and placement away from the family; seek advice from the Police
 - a. Prepare an emergency plan for leaving i.e. suitcase with clothes, important documents (passports, driving licence, national insurance/ NHS documents), money, mobile phone and family photographs.
 - b. If dual nationality advise victim to take their own and children's passports.
 - c. Consider taking the passport for safe keeping if required
 - d. If there is fear of them being taken out of the country request details of the family home in the said country. This should include the relative's names, full addresses, and the villages, where and with whom the victim may reside with. Liaise with Forced Marriage Unit (Foreign and Commonwealth Office – Tel: 0207 008 0151).
 - e. Also if it can be established, the duration of visit, flight details and expected date of return.
 - f. If they fear being forced out of the country consider "All Ports Warning" through the Police 24
 - g. Consider relocating the victim - preferably completely out of the area and not with a family member (let new area know that a high risk victim is placed with them ASAP – let the Police area know that victim has been transferred.
 - h. Develop a safety plan in case victim has been seen i.e. prepare another reason why you are meeting, i.e., give the victim a cover story.
2. If the adult victim wishes to remain in the family home and you believe their life to be in danger, complete the necessary safety planning.

3. Request fingerprints, photograph and DNA – done by the Police and is a voluntary process.
4. If necessary, record any injuries and arrange a medical examination.
5. Arrange to place a “Location of Interest” on the victim’s family’s address.
6. Consider appropriateness of a police mobile phone, alarm, and personal attack alarm.
7. Discuss a code word for them to use so you always know you are talking to the right person (that ONLY they know)
8. Consider any legal remedies available to the individual, i.e., Forced Marriage Protection Order (FMPO). FMPOs are made with the purpose of protecting those who are being forced into marriage or someone who has been forced into marriage; Police / Social Care or the victim can take these out without notice to the relevant people.

Accurate record keeping in all cases of violence/abuse in the name of honour is important.



- Records should be accurate, detailed, clear and include the date
- Use the person’s own words in quotation marks
- Document any injuries – include photographs, body maps or pictures of their injuries
- Only be available to those directly involved in the person’s case

Reference material:

[Karma Nirvana](#)

[Kirklees Safeguarding Children](#)

[Saverauk](#)

[IKWRO](#)

[The Right to Choose](#)

[Forced Marriage – GOV.UK](#)

[Our Girl Resource Pack – avaproject.org.uk](#)