

7-minute briefing:

So Called Honour based abuse:

1. What is so called honour -based abuse

Honour based abuse (HBA) is 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.

2. How common is HBA?

Home office figures suggest that there are approximately 12 honour killings in the UK each year, not counting individuals who are taken abroad and never seen again. Between 2010-14 police forces recorded more than 11,000 honour crimes.

This is a cultural and NOT a religious practice that involves South Asian, Turkish, Kurdish, Afghani, Romany and Traveller communities, Middle Eastern, Southern and Eastern European communities.

3. Who is vulnerable?

Girls and women are most at risk of HBA and are vulnerable following a refusal or breakdown of an arranged or forced marriage, termination of an unwanted pregnancy or defying parents. HBA can also affect boys and men.

HBA might also be committed against people who become involved with a boyfriend or girlfriend from a different culture or religion and whose attitude and behaviour might not be considered traditional with a particular culture. LGBTQ+ and disabled people are amongst the most vulnerable.

7. Responding to HBA

Take extreme caution, consider the one chance rule and seek specialist advice and guidance. For support on risk assessment and safety planning contact Solace on 0203 198 4659 or Karma Nirvana on 0800 5999 247. Refer to the police immediately.

One stop shop every Wednesday 12.30 - 3pm at Central Library, Bexleyheath.

6. One chance rule

Never turn a person away! You may only have ONE chance to speak to a potential victim and may only have ONE chance to save a life! Listen carefully and believe the victim. Place wellbeing and safeguarding central to your response. See victim alone way from chaperones. Do not involve or speak to family or community members. Use professional curiosity and critical analysis when assessing risk and safety planning. Consider additional complexities and adversities such as immigration status, language, disabilities, mental capacity and sexuality.

5. Why does HBA happen?

Children are introduced to the notion of honour at a young age. Perpetrators can often find it difficult to balance family, community and UK culture. Adults and young people can experience HBA when a relative including spouse, in-laws and community members perceive that shame has been brought on the family and community and the honour code has been broken.

Many crimes are planned and organised by more than one individual, ie multiple perpetrators. Families may deploy networks to locate an individual, eg by circulating photographs within a taxi service or by hijacking social media appeals for missing persons. Location services within phones and other technology can also be used to find an individual.

4. Forms of HBA

HBA can take many forms:

- Domestic abuse
- Sexual harassment
- Assault and rape
- Psychological abuse
- Child abuse
- Kidnapping / false imprisonment
- FGM
- Threats to kill
- Forced marriage
- Coercive and controlling behaviours
- Stalking
- House arrest
- Servitude
- Isolation from family and community
- Denial of further education or employment
- Excessive restrictions on freedom
- Abandonment or sending someone back to their country of origin
- Dowry abuse
- Forced suicide
- Murder "honour killing"