



# Honour Based Violence (HBV)

## What is Honour Based Violence?

'Honour based violence' is a crime or incident which has or may have been committed to protect or defend the honour of the family and/or community." CPS and ACPO definition

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:

- Become involved with a boyfriend or girlfriend from a different culture or religion
- Are seeking a divorce
- Have been raped
- Are reporting abuse to the Police
- Wear clothes or take part in activities that might not be considered traditional within a particular culture
- Are disobeying family orders

Women and girls are the most common victims of HBV however it can also affect men and boys. Crimes of 'honour' do not always include violence. Crimes committed in the name of 'honour' might include:

- Domestic abuse
- Threats of violence
- Sexual or psychological abuse
- Forced marriage
- Being held against your will or taken somewhere you don't want to go
- Assault

A forced marriage is one that is carried out without the consent of both people. This is very different to an arranged marriage, which both people will have agreed to. There is no religion that says it is right to force you into a marriage and you are not betraying your faith by refusing such a marriage.

Any suspicion or disclosure of violence or abuse against a child in the name of honour should be treated equally seriously as any other suspicion or disclosure of significant harm against a child. For further guidance on protection and action to be taken please go to:

Police: <https://www.thamesvalley.police.uk/ro/report/ocr/af/how-to-report-a-crime/>

Bracknell MASH: [www.mash@bracknell-forest.gov.uk](mailto:www.mash@bracknell-forest.gov.uk)

## Help and Advice



BWA work alongside statutory agencies to support children and young people at risk of Honour Based Violence and Forced Marriage. Helpline 0118 950 4003

Karma Nirvana is a dedicated charity, providing support and training to help prevent forced marriages and honour based abuse within the UK and beyond. Call on 0800 5999 247 or visit [www.karmanirvana.org.uk](http://www.karmanirvana.org.uk)

The Halo Project Charity is a national project that will support victims of honour based violence, forced marriages and FGM by providing appropriate advice and support to victims. Call on 01642 683 045

The Forced Marriage Unit is a joint Foreign and Commonwealth Office and Home Office unit which was set up in January 2005 to lead on the Government's forced marriage policy, outreach and casework. Call on 0207 0080 151, Email: [fmu@fco.gov.uk](mailto:fmu@fco.gov.uk) or Visit: [www.gov.uk/guidance/forced-marriage](http://www.gov.uk/guidance/forced-marriage)