



SAFEGUARDING SPOTLIGHT



Honour Based Abuse

**WARNING – SOME OF THE CONTENT IN THIS EDITION MAY BE TRIGGERING.
PLEASE SPEAK TO A MEMBER OF THE SAFEGUARDING TEAM IF YOU WOULD LIKE SUPPORT**

Honour-based abuse is a crime or incident committed to protect or defend the 'honour' of a family or community.

If your family or community think you've shamed or embarrassed them by behaving in a certain way, they may punish you for breaking their 'honour' code.

Have you been threatened or abused if you've tried to:

- have a relationship or marry someone outside your community or someone within your community that your family don't approve of
- separate or divorce
- talk to certain people
- have sex before marriage
- become pregnant or give birth outside of marriage
- wear clothes your family or community think are inappropriate
- use drugs or alcohol
- access higher education
- challenge what your family or community expect of you
- disagree with the religion of your family or community

People who carry out honour-based abuse are often close family members but also extended family or community members.

For some communities, the concept of 'honour' is prized above the safety and wellbeing of individuals.

To compromise a family's 'honour' is to bring dishonour and shame – which can have severe consequences. This is sometimes used to justify emotional abuse, physical abuse, disownment and in some cases even murder.

It's estimated that around 76% of victims of 'honour'-based abuse are female, but boys and men are also at risk.

It is estimated that one girl or woman is killed every month in the name of "honour". There are 17,000 reported incidents of HBA or forced marriage in the UK each year.

Reducingtherisk.org.uk

TYPES OF HONOUR BASED VIOLENCE AND ABUSE

HBV can take many forms but some examples include:

Honour Based Abuse and Violence

It is different from other forms of abuse and violence as it is often carried out with some degree of approval and/or collusion from family and/or community members. Examples may include unexplained death (suicide), fear of or actual forced marriage, controlling sexual activity, domestic violence, child abuse, rape, kidnapping, false imprisonment, threats to kill, assault, stalking and harassment, forced abortion and in the worst case scenario murder.

Forced Marriage

"A forced marriage is where one or both people do not (or in cases of people with learning disabilities, cannot) consent to the marriage and pressure or abuse is used. It is an appalling and indefensible practice and is recognised in the UK as a form of violence against women and men, domestic/child abuse and a serious abuse of human rights." (UK Home Office)

Female Genital Mutilation

Female genital mutilation (FGM) comprises all procedures that involve partial or total removal of the external female genitalia, or other injury to the female genital organs for non-medical reasons. The practice has no health benefits for girls and women and cause severe bleeding and problems urinating, and later cysts, infections, as well as complications in childbirth and increased risk of newborn deaths.

Breast Ironing/Flattening

Breast Ironing also known as 'Breast Flattening' is the process whereby young pubescent girls breasts are ironed, massaged and/or pounded down through the use of hard or heated objects in order for the breasts to disappear or delay the development of the breasts entirely. It is believed that by carrying out this act, young girls will be protected from harassment, rape, abduction and early forced marriage and therefore be kept in education.



FGM is against the law in the UK and has been a criminal offence since 1985. It is a serious crime that carries a penalty of 14 years in prison. It is an offence to make arrangements for FGM to be undertaken within the UK or to take, or plan to take a child out of the UK for the purpose of FGM.

HOW WILL COLLEGE SUPPORT ME?

The college take disclosures of HBV very seriously.

We may need to report to social care or the police in some cases.

We also work closely with [The Halo Project](#) and may refer you to them for extra support.

Please be aware we cannot guarantee confidentiality.

**There may be times we have to share information with local authorities, police or parents/carers, regardless of age.
Drop into the wellbeing centre, email safeguarding@mbro.ac.uk, text SAFE to 60081 or speak to a tutor.**