



## “Honour”-based abuse (HBA) training - handout

### Facts

“Honour”-based abuse (HBA) is a form of abuse that is motivated by the belief that someone in the family has brought shame or dishonour to their family or community. Examples of behaviours which can be perceived as damaging “honour” may include:

- Behaving in what is perceived to be a ‘westernised manner’ e.g. wearing makeup or certain clothing
- Going against parental authority
- Having a non-approved relationship, for example, intimate relations before/outside marriage or same sex relations.

Families/communities who uphold honour systems often place a very high value on maintaining virginity before marriage and on heterosexual marriage.

Most HBA is perpetrated against girls and women but boys and men can also be at risk.

There may be multiple perpetrators, most often fathers, brothers and uncles, but female relatives can also be involved.

The victim is abused to “correct” the behaviour or restore the reputation of the family in the community. The abuse may be verbal, physical, sexual or financial; it may also constitute various criminal offences, such as forced marriage, coercive control or murder.

“Honour”-based abuse takes place across different countries, cultures and religions. In the UK, most victims of HBA originate from South Asian countries, such as Pakistan and Bangladesh. Victims also originate from Eastern European, Middle Eastern and African countries.

It is estimated that at least one girl or woman is killed every month in the UK in the name of “honour”.

### Law

Forced marriage is a form of “honour”-based abuse and it is illegal in the UK. It is illegal to:

- Force an individual to marry against their will
- Use violence, threats or deception to cause another person to leave the UK for the purpose of a forced marriage, even if the marriage does not take place
- Breach a Forced Marriage Protection Order
- Marry someone who lacks capacity to consent to the marriage or is under 18 years old

Forcing someone into marriage can lead to up to 7 years in prison. Breaching the terms of a Forced Marriage Protection Order can lead to up to 5 years in prison.

Whilst there is no specific offence of “honour”-based abuse, the Crown Prosecution Service will recognise “honour”-based abuses as incidents or crimes under current legislation e.g. assault, kidnapping, theft etc.

### Harms

Recognising HBA - types of harm:

- Self-harm



- Lower academic performance
- Removal from education
- Depression or anxiety
- Isolation
- Disowned by family
- Suicide

## Reasons

Reasons:

- Control sexual behaviour / maintain virginity
- Pressure from family / community
- Financial gains
- Response to pregnancy out of wedlock
- To “cure” homosexuality
- Immigration
- ‘Out of love’

## Safeguarding

If someone is in immediate danger, call **999**.

If you are concerned that a child may be at risk of / experiencing “honour”-based abuse, then you need to make a **report** to the MASH (Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub)/ Children’s Social Care.

If you think someone is being taken abroad, or has already been taken abroad to be forced into marriage:

Call the **Forced Marriage Unit (FMU)** on 020 7008 0151

If you talk to a child about HBA, please bear in mind the following:

- Find a private space
- Use independent translators (if needed)
- Avoid judgemental language
- Maintain a record of your conversation
- Don’t promise not to share information

**\*NB.** Never approach the family (unless advised by Social Care).

There may be warning signs that “honour”-based abuse, including forced marriage, is taking place. Please refer to the **HBA Risk Assessment Tool**. This can be found on the Oxford Against Cutting website, [here](#).

Remember to safeguard siblings and acquaintances such as a partner.

Remember that cultural norms and interpretations of honour can vary significantly, so what is considered dishonorable in one context may not be the same in another.

## Tips for Professionals

Remember the one chance rule

Use a private space

Listen to and believe survivors

Be mindful of translators, do not use children, family members or community members to translate!

Use the same terminology as the victim and avoid judgmental language

Maintain a record of what is disclosed

Minimise who the information is shared with

Don’t promise not to share information

Don’t approach the family

Keep an open door policy

Keep a safety plan with the victim

Share information regarding support agencies or offer to call specialist support

Link with your Designated Safeguarding Lead



**Always follow up a safeguarding referral**

## Helpline numbers

**Police:** 999

**Karma Nirvana** supports victims of “honour”-based abuse and forced marriage  
National helpline, Monday – Friday 9am – 5pm: **0800 5999 247**

**The Forced Marriage Unit (FMU)** offers advice and support to victims of forced marriage as well as guidance to professionals.

Helpline open 9am - 5pm Monday to Friday

Tel: **020 7008 0151**

Email: [fmu@fco.gov.uk](mailto:fmu@fco.gov.uk)

**Childline:** 0800 1111

National helpline 24/7

[Forced marriage | Childline](#)

## Local Helpline Numbers

### Bracknell Forest

MASH / Bracknell Forest Children's Services – **01344 352005** (Emergency Duty Team – 01344 786 543)

Berkshire Women's Aid – **0808 801 088**

### Buckinghamshire

Buckinghamshire MASH - **01296 383 962** (Out of hours – 0800 999 7677)

Aylesbury Women's Aid - **01296437777**

Wycombe Women's Aid - **01494461367**

### Milton Keynes

Milton Keynes MASH – **01908 253 169/ 253 170** (Out of hours – 01908 265 545)

MK-ACT- **03443754307**

### Oxfordshire

Oxfordshire MASH – **0345 050 7666**

A2Dominion Domestic Abuse Services, ODAS - **08007310055**

### Slough

MASH / Slough Children's Services Trust – **01753 875 362** (Emergency Duty Team – 01344 786 543)

Hestia - **02073783100**

### Reading

Reading MASH – **0118 937 3641**

Berkshire Women's Aid – **0808 801 0882**

### West Berkshire

West Berkshire MASH – **01635 503 090**

Berkshire Women's Aid – **0808 801 0882**

### Wokingham

Children's Services Wokingham – – **0118 908 8002**

Cranstoun - **02083351830**

### Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead

MASH / Windsor and Maidenhead Children's Services – **01628 683 150**

The DASH Charity - **01753549865**



**OxfordAgainstCutting**  
ProtectingGirls&Women

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