



Ascent

Harmful Practices – Honour Based Violence (HBV)

Ms Sarbjit Ganger

Director- Asian Women's Resource Centre (AWRC)

Tel: 0208 961 6549

Email: info@asianwomencentre.org.uk



**London
VAWG
Consortium**



WORKSHOP OBJECTIVES

- **Understanding of Honour Based Violence** within the wider spectrum of Violence Against Women and Girls.
- **Explain the role** of the AWRC and specialist women's organisations in dealing with Violence Against Women and Girls .
- Understanding of the **power dynamics** at play.
- Identify warning **signs/symptoms** that render women and girls at risk of, or experiencing, harmful practice/s.
- Describe the **legislative and policy frameworks** that exist for the prevention of harmful practices, the safeguarding of women and girls and the prosecution of the perpetrators.
- Identify **referral pathways**
- **Best practice**

Asian Women's Resource Centre (AWRC)

- User led organisation for women and by women
- Founded in 1980
- Registered Charity
- Advice, advocacy and counselling on VAWG, housing, welfare and homelessness
- Opportunities for women to develop themselves- ESOL, computer, arts and crafts, healthy eating
- Training given to professionals on VAW issues as they affect BME women
- Counselling referral service for women
- Outreach advice services
- Legal advice
- Women's Activities
- Ascent Ending harmful practices partnership

* VAWG Violence Against Women & Girls

* BME- Black, Minority Ethnicity

* ESOL- English Speakers of Other Languages

ASCENT ENDING HARMFUL PRACTICES (EHP) STRAND

- EHP is a partnership project between nine specialist women's organisations, led by the AWRC. Partners include: Ashiana Network,, IMECE Women's Centre, (IKWRO) Women's Centre, Latin American Women's Rights Service (LAWRS), Women & Girls Network (WGN), Southall Black Sisters Trust (SBST), Foundation for Women's Health, Research and Development (FORWARD) and the Al- Aman Project (Domestic Violence Intervention Project (DVIP))
- The Project is funded through London Councils Priority 2 Violence Against Women & Girls : strand 2.6: Specifically targeted services Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) , Honour Based Violence (HBV), Forced Marriages (FM) and other harmful practice years 2017-2021

BACKGROUND TO PROJECT

- The Project came about as a direct result of the missing link report – a joined up approach to addressing Harmful practices in London. This study was commissioned by the Greater London Authority conducted by Imkaan (between December 2010- March 2011) to address the knowledge gap on the needs of Black, Minority, Ethnic women experiencing Harmful practices . The aim was to provide a document to help engage commissioners, funders, policy makers and frontline practitioners to improve the way London responds to Harmful practices.
- The report found that thousands of girls were at risk of harmful practices in the UK but there was no consistent approach by authorities to deal with these issues

EHP SERVICES

- 1:1 intense advice , advocacy and casework support on HBV, FM, FGM and other harmful practices, including information on rights and entitlements.
- Therapeutic support groups and a counselling provision to women (intense 20 week contracts)
- Raising awareness of the impact of HBV, FM and FGM within communities and other voluntary and statutory agencies (not only BME communities) through delivering workshops, training and presentations and
- Specific work with young women through the delivery of workshops to support peer mentoring and youth advocacy

TARGETS IN GREENWICH

- The Ending Harmful Practice strand have 27 one to one casework targets on Female Genital Mutilation in Greenwich
- Delivery partner- FORWARD

Contact; Toks Okeniyi - Head of UK Programmes & Operations Toks@forwarduk.org.uk or Mary Otuko- UK project manager Mary@forwarduk.org.uk

Tel: 0208 960 4000



DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

DEFINITION DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

- *“Any incident of threatening behaviour, violence or abuse (**psychological, physical, sexual, financial or emotional**) between adults who are or have been intimate partners or family members, regardless of gender or sexuality.”*

Government Definition of
Domestic Violence

- *“Domestic violence is physical, sexual, psychological or financial violence that takes place within an intimate or family-type relationship and that forms a pattern of coercive and controlling behaviour. This can include forced marriage and so-called 'honour crimes'. Domestic violence may include a range of abusive behaviours, not all of which are in themselves inherently 'violent'.”*

Women's Aid

STATISTICS- THE EXTENT OF THE ISSUE

- At least two women are killed each week in England and Wales by a current or former partner (Office of National Statistics 2015)
- 1 in 4 women in England and Wales experiences domestic violence in their lifetime and 8% will suffer domestic violence in any given year (Crime Survey of England and Wales 2013/14)
- 1 in 3 BME women will experience domestic violence (figures are higher)
- Every minute the police in the UK receive a domestic violence assistance call – Yet only 35% of domestic violence incidents are reported to the police (Stanko 2000)
- Most survivors of abuse did not recognise their experience as violence till they approached a specialist services (Beyond the labels 2013)
- Domestic violence crimes have the highest rate of repeat victimisation (Dodd et Al 2014)- 44% of domestic violence victims are involved in more than one incident (British Crime Survey 2011)

VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS (VAWG)

any act of gender-based violence that results in, or is likely to result in,

- **Physical Harm**
- **Sexual harm**
- **Emotional/Psychological harm**
- **Financial harm**
- **Social Isolation**
- **Coercion**
- **Harassment**
- **Stalking**

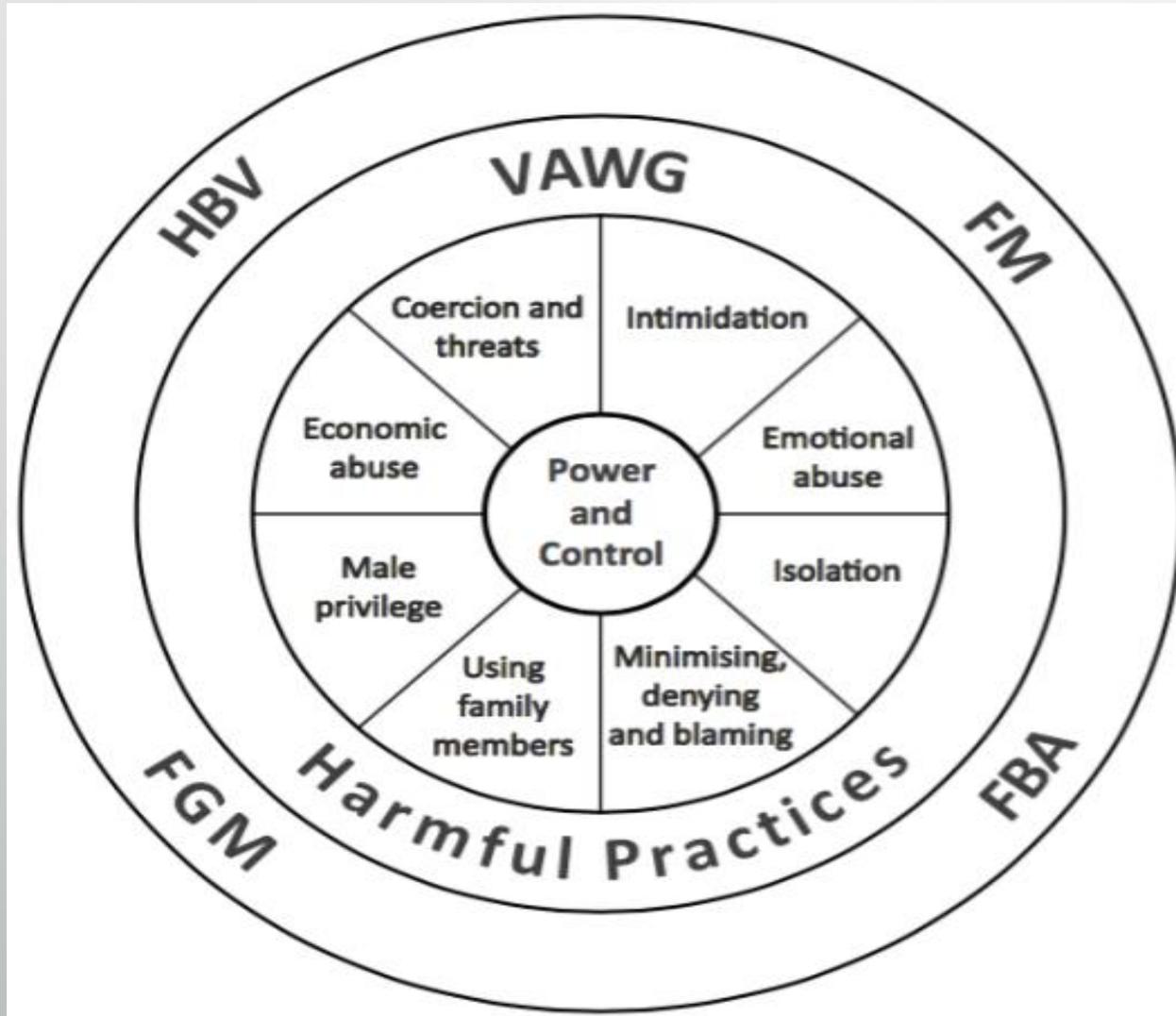
Including threats of such acts occurring in public and private life

!!! VAWG also includes specific forms of violence which impacts on BME women which among others, include:



- **Forced Marriage**
- **Female Genital Mutilation**
- **“Honour” based violence,**
- **Acid Throwing**
- **Dowry related violence**
- **Breast ironing/flattening**
- **Foot binding**
- **Faith Based Abuse: Black magic, spirit possession**
- **Child marriage**

POWER AND CONTROL WHEEL



EFFECTS OF VAWG

- Low confidence and self esteem
- Social isolation
- Depression, eating disorders or other mental health conditions
- Self harm/ suicide
- Alcohol/substance misuse
- Often subject to physical injury which leads to permanent damage
- Insecurity about children
- Develops Post-Traumatic stress which includes symptoms like those of
 - Agitation and anxiety,
 - Depression, panic attacks,
 - Trouble sleeping or relaxing,
 - Numbness, sense of isolation,
 - Nightmares
- **DEATH**



HONOUR BASED VIOLENCE (HBV)

PREVALENCE OF HBV IN THE UK

- **2010-2014 11.000 cases of HBV were reported to the UK police**
- **5000** honour killings recorded per year worldwide (UN 2003).
- At least **12- 15** honour killings per year in the UK (HO 2004)
- AWRC provided **face to face** intensive casework to **250** women at **high risk of HBV**. The majority of these women were 16-25 years of age (2016).
- **Honour Network** helpline deals with nearly 600 calls every month (Karma Nirvana, 2015)

“HONOUR” BASED VIOLENCE DEFINITION

- “Honour” Based Violence (HBV) is **any act of violence**, predominantly against women and girls, which is committed by family or community member/s in order to **defend** their **perceived**.
- HBV is normally **collectively planned** and **carried out by** the victim’s **family**, sometimes with the involvement of the wider **community** ‘honour’ killing , forced marriage, rape, forced suicide, acid attacks, mutilation, imprisonment, abduction, beatings, death threats, blackmail, emotional abuse, surveillance, harassment, forced abortion and abductions.

The Crown Prosecution Service (CPS), Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) and support groups have common definition which is:

- *“'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.”*

HONOUR BASED VIOLENCE

Is a violation of human rights and may be a form of domestic and/or sexual violence. There is no, and cannot be, honour or justification for abusing the human rights of others.

CASE STUDY – BANAZ MAHMOOD



Banaz Mahmood

was forced into a marriage at the age of 17. She had met her husband-to-be only three times before her wedding day. She faced a marriage filled with sexual and physical abuse at the hands of her husband. After 2 years, Banaz fled from her arranged marriage and returned home. She was imprisoned and beaten by her own family.

- In late 2005 Banaz met and got into a relationship with Rahmat Sulemani, which was deemed unsuitable (from a different cultural background) and was said to bring shame on the family. Her uncle Ari telephoned Banaz on December 1st 2005, to tell her to end the affair with Rahmat or face the consequences. The following day, Ari and other members of the family and community, held a meeting to discuss killing Banaz and Rahmat. On 5 different occasions Banaz reported to the police that her life was in danger. Further to this Banaz wrote to the Police naming the men that were going to kill her.
- On New Year's Eve 2005, Banaz was lured to her grandmother's house. Her father appeared wearing surgical gloves, ready to kill her. Banaz ran out barefoot, broke a window of a neighbour's house in order to get their attention and then ran to a nearby cafe, covered in blood from cuts to her hands and screaming; "They're trying to kill me". The officers who attended the scene and accompanied Banaz to hospital did not believe her story.
- On January 24th, Banaz was left on her own at the family house and her assassins were alerted. She was raped and strangled with a bootlace.
- Banaz's body was found in a suitcase buried in a garden in Handsworth, Birmingham, on April 29th 2006.

Sadly last year Rahmat killed himself

Honour based violence might be committed against people who:

Become involved with a boyfriend or girlfriend from a different culture or religion

- Pregnancy out of wedlock
- wants to get out of an arranged or forced marriage
- wears clothes or take part in activities that might not be considered appropriate within a particular culture
- Becoming too westernised.
- Controlling sexual activity

HONOUR BASED VIOLENCE

- HBV can exist in any culture or community where males are in position to establish and enforce women's conduct, examples include: Turkish; Kurdish; Afghani; South Asian; African; Middle Eastern; South and Eastern European; and the travelling community (this is not an exhaustive list).
- 'Honour Based Violence' is a crime which is **not only perpetrated by men always**, for sometimes **female relatives are accomplices** who also support, abet, incite or assist. It is also not unusual for younger relatives to be selected to undertake the abuse as a way to protect senior members of the family. Sometimes contract killers and bounty hunters will also be employed.
- Males can also be victims, sometimes as a consequence of a relationship which is deemed to be inappropriate, if they are gay, have a disability or if they have assisted a victim.

LEGISLATION

- There is no specific offence of "honour based crime". It is an umbrella term to encompass various offences covered by existing legislation. Honour based violence (HBV) can be described as a collection of practices, which are used to control behaviour within families or other social groups to protect perceived cultural and religious beliefs and/or honour. Such violence can occur when perpetrators perceive that a relative has shamed the family and/or community by breaking their honour code.

GENERAL LEGISLATION ON VAWG

- Domestic Violence, Crime and Victims Act 2004
- Crime and Disorder Act 1998
- Forced Marriage (Civil Protection) Act 2007
- Children's Act 1989
- Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policy Act, 2014
- Protection from Harassment Act 1997 (also covers stalking)
- Witness Protection and Anonymity (Article 6.1 European Convention on Human Rights) and Special Measures, The Youth Justice and Criminal Evidence Act 1999
- Protection of Freedoms Act 2012 – for offences related to stalking
- Protection from Harassment Act 1997
- Sexual Offences Act 2003
- Offences Against the Person Act

GROUP EXERCISE

- In groups of two please discuss warning signs and risk indicators in relation to HBV (10 mins)
- Come back into larger group and discuss



WARNING SIGNS/TRIGGERS & INDICATORS

Warning signs /triggers & Indicators

- **Education:** absence, extended leave of absence, fear about forthcoming holidays, surveillance, decline in behaviour, sudden announcement engagement, prevented from going into further education
- **Employment:** poor performance, not allowed to work, financial control, leaving work accompanied, no flexibility in working arrangements.
- **Family history:** Siblings forced to married, self harm/suicide of siblings, family disputes, running away from home, unreasonable restrictions

WARNING SIGNS/TRIGGERS AND INDICATORS

- **Health:** accompanied to doctors, depression/isolation, self harm, attempted suicide, substance misuse, early/unwanted pregnancy, FGM.
- **Police:** victim or siblings reported missing, DV, harassment, threats, rape, kidnap, victim reported for offences, acid attacks.

Forced Marriage Unit (2009). Multi-agency Practice Guidelines: Handling cases of forced marriage

REFFERAL PATHWAYS



HARMFUL PRACTICES FLOW CHART



Harmful Practices
Flowchart

Don'ts

- **Don't**
- **Use mediation** – mediation, reconciliation or family counselling **can be extremely dangerous**. Professionals undertaking these activities may unwittingly increase an individual's vulnerability and place them in danger. In cases of forced marriage, it is important that agencies do not actively initiate, encourage or facilitate family counselling, mediation, arbitration or reconciliation – whether offered by community councils, religious or professional groups. There have been cases of women being murdered by their families during mediation. Mediation can also place someone at risk of further emotional and physical abuse
- **Ask someone why they don't leave / haven't done something earlier** – there are many reasons why people don't leave abusive relationships
- **Ask them what caused the violence** – this may make them feel like it was their fault
- **Make decisions for the client** – many survivors are used to being told what to do and you are not the best person to make decisions for them.
- **Pressure the client to make a decision** – often people are seeking advice prior to leaving an abusive environment and may just want some information
- **Ignore her beliefs / fears of threats** – remember they are in the best position to judge their own safety and welfare
- **Give out her personal information** – only share information that is necessary. Be extra cautious when sharing client details with agencies over the phone
- **Make assumptions about other service providers** – before you refer a client elsewhere, make sure you have a clear understanding of the services that agency provides.

Best Practices

- Create a safe space
- Take responsibility of the interpreters
- Believe the client and take them seriously
- Reassure them it is not their fault
- Prioritise immediate safety
- Listen to what they want
- Respect individuals
- Create a safety Plan
- Keep in mind the “One chance” rule
- Liaise with other agencies
- Inform and consult with the survivor about the next steps
- Remember you are not alone

EFFECTIVE REFERRALS

- Consider the needs of the young person
- To avoid duplication, record carefully all the information you have gathered from the young person
- Inform the young person of the referral and listen to any concerns
- When using interpreters, use a trusted source and check with your client
- Always check an organisations' expertise and understanding of HBV, FM, FGM and FBA before making any referrals
- Give preference to gender specialist organisations
- Do not refer clients at risk of HBV, FM, FGM and FBA to community centres and religious establishments
- Always follow up

MULTI-AGENCY INTERVENTIONS

- Safeguarding is everyone's business
- Integrated approaches to service planning, processes and provision are necessary
- Coordinated response but clear line of accountability
- Shared understanding, assessment, recording, intervention and review systems
- Implementation framework, case reviews, case meetings

Resources

- **Honour Network-** 0800 5999 247
- **24 Hour National Domestic Violence Helpline** - 0808 2000 247
- **Child line** - 0800 111
- **Forced Marriage Unit** -020 7008 0151
- **Forced marriage multi-agency guidelines**
- **Asian Women's Resource Centre-** 0208 961 6549
- **Iranian & Kurdish Women's Rights Organization-** (IKWR0) - 0207 920 6460
- **Latin American Women's Rights Service (LAWRS** - 0207 324 9805
- **Southall Black Sisters Trust (SBST)-** 0208 574 9595
- **Women & Girls Network (WGN)-** 020 7610 4678
- **IMECE Women's Centre-** 0207 354 1359
- **Ashiana Network-** 020 8539 0427
- **Rights of Women (ROW) –** 020 7251 6577
- **Rape and Sexual abuse help line** - 0808 800 0123
- **FORWARD-** 0208 960 4000
- **Solace Women's Aid –** 0808 802 5565



ANY QUESTIONS

THANK YOU