



Student Wellbeing Resource

Honour Based Abuse

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Honour Based Abuse

Overview

So called 'Honour' based abuse (HBA) is a violent crime or incident that has been committed against a partner or family member where the perpetrator or perpetrators uses the excuse that they were protecting or defending the 'honour' of the family or community. HBA can also be referred to as 'Izzat' which means 'shame' in some communities. It is often linked to a belief that someone has brought shame onto their family or community that goes against the traditional beliefs of their culture. Examples of excuses for 'honour' based violence include: having a partner / boyfriend / girlfriend who is from a different culture or religion; rejecting an arranged marriage and wearing clothes that are not considered part of the traditional culture.

Women and girls are more likely to be victims of 'honour' based abuse but it can also affect boys and men. 'Honour' based crimes can include: physical abuse, threats of violence and forced marriage. Any type of 'honour' based abuse is against the law so all types should be reported! A child or young person who is at risk of 'honour' based abuse is at significant risk of physical harm (including being murdered), and / or neglect. They may also suffer significant emotional harm, as a result of a threat of violence or witnessing violence directed towards a sibling or other family member.

Key Facts

- HBA estimates are not currently available as this is not a specific crime, although a 2012 IKWRO¹ report using police recorded information suggested around 3,350 incidents are reported to the police per year but a further IKWRO report in 2014 found that only four out of five police forces reported these incidents as HBA, therefore the 3,350 is likely to be underestimation of reported incidents by up to 20%.
- Local Sheffield providers reported that they were supporting 107 people affected by HBA in 2016².
- 41 HBA cases were heard at Sheffield MARAC in 2016³.

Best Practice

Report any concerns to the Sheffield Safeguarding Hub as soon as possible.

When there is a risk of 'honour' based abuse it is important to act swiftly – there may only get one chance to intervene. This is known as the 'one chance rule'.⁴ That is, professionals may only have one opportunity to speak to a victim or potential victim and may possibly only have one chance to save a life. As a result, all professionals working within statutory agencies need to be aware of their responsibilities and obligations when they are faced with 'honour' based abuse cases. If the victim is allowed to leave without the appropriate support and advice being offered, that one chance might be wasted.

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References

- ¹ Iranian and Kurdish Women's Right's Organisation
- ² <http://sheffielddact.org.uk/domestic-abuse/wp-content/uploads/sites/3/2017/08/Part-1-Section-9-Harmful-cultural-practices-FINAL.pdf>
- ³ Ibid
- ⁴ Multi-agency practice guidelines: Handling cases of Forced Marriage, HM Government

Resources

Sheffield Safeguarding Children Board procedures re. 'Honour' Based Abuse
http://sheffieldscb.proceduresonline.com/chapters/p_honour.html?zoom_highlight=honour+based+abuse

Charity website that explains 'Honour' based abuse and provides support to victims e.g. helpline.
<http://www.haloproject.org.uk/>

'Honour'based abuse victims story.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hObICnCK-Fc>

Karma Nirvana is a charity supporting victims of 'Honour' Based Abuse and Forced Marriage. <http://www.karmanirvana.org.uk/>

Local Offers and Providers

Provider	What they offer	Cost	Contact details
Ashiana	Awareness raising and support around harmful practices most prevalent in BME communities (Domestic Abuse, FGM, Forced Marriage, 'honour' based violence, CSE, grooming).	Free	info@ashianasheffield.org 0114 255 5740
IDAS	Systems of Abuse training for staff (covering HBV, forced marriage and FGM).	Free	Website https://www.idas.org.uk/ Includes online referral form Training website https://courses.idas.org.uk/ 0114 249 3920 info@idas.org.uk