

September 2023

**01 What is Honour-Based Abuse**

Honour-based abuse/violence is a crime or incident committed to protect or defend the 'honour' of a family or community. The incident or crime may involve violence, threats of violence, intimidation, coercion or abuse (including psychological, physical, sexual, financial or emotional abuse.), which has or may have been committed to protect or defend the honour of an individual, family and/or community for alleged or perceived breaches of the family and/or community’s code of behaviour. (National Police Chiefs’ Council definition - Sept 2019)

**05 Warning Signs**

Understand that, for some communities, to compromise a family’s ‘honour’ is to bring dishonour and shame – which can have severe consequences. This is sometimes used to justify abuse, and in some cases even murder.

Control and coercive behaviours are often features of HBA. Signs of HBA may include physical injuries, being restricted in movements and overly supervised, not having access to communication devices like phones/ internet, unexplained absences / missing, being fearful, being withdrawn, upset, self-harming, appearing depressed, angry and/or desperate.

It is important to understand that HBA is NOT a religious practice. Incidents/crimes have occurred in different communities, including: South Asian, Turkish, Kurdish, Afghani, African, Romany and Traveller communities, Middle Eastern, Southern and Eastern European communities.

Victims may experience abuse from multiple perpetrators as parents, relatives and members of the community may participate in the abuse or aid the perpetrator(s).

**07 Further Reading**

[West Midlands Procedures: Honour-Based Abuse](https://westmidlands.procedures.org.uk/pkqqo/regional-safeguarding-guidance/honour-based-abuse)

[Karma Nirvana – Helpline, Training, Campaigns](https://karmanirvana.org.uk/)

[MET Police – What is Honour-Based Abuse](https://www.met.police.uk/advice/advice-and-information/honour-based-abuse/honour-based-abuse/)

[Forced Marriage Unit](https://www.gov.uk/stop-forced-marriage)

[Herefordshire multi-agency training](https://www.herefordshirecpd.co.uk/)

**06 What to do**

Never turn a person away! You may only have **ONE CHANCE** to speak to a potential victim and may only have ONE CHANCE to save a life.

See the child/person alone, in a safe and private space. Record carefully and be cautious about how information is recorded.

If someone is at immediate risk - call 999 or contact Police on 101. For young people under 18 years, HBA is a child protection issue. Contact [MASH](https://www.herefordshiresafeguardingboards.org.uk/safeguarding-information/concerned-about-a-child) – 01432 260800. For adults, a risk assessment tool like [DASH](https://westmidlands.procedures.org.uk/local-content/wQzN/domestic-abuse-tools-and-pathways/?b=Herefordshire%20%20%20%20%20%20%20%20%20%20Manage%20Cookie%20Consent%20%20We%20use%20some%20necessary%20cookies%20to%20make%20this%20website%20work.We%27d%20like%20to%20set%20additional%20cookies%20to%20understand%20how%20you%20use%20the%20site,%20remember%20your%20settings%20and%20improve%20the%20website.See%20our%20full%20cookie%20policy%20for%20more%20information%20which%20includes%20a%20list%20of%20all%20of%20the%20cookies%20we%20use.%20%20%20%20%20%20Accept%20additional%20cookies%20%20%20%20Reject%20additional%20cookies%20%20%20%20%20%20%20%20Cookie%20Policy%20%20%20%20Manage%20Consent) and Referral to MARAC may be appropriate.

**Do not** make contact with the family or community members/leaders. **Do not** tell the family or their social network about what the young person has said. **Do not** attempt mediation, and **do not** ask family/community members to interpret for the individual – this could put them at immediate risk of harm.

If a child has been taken into care due to risk of HBA, any reunification home should be done with extreme caution, robust risk assessment and safety planning, and listening to the views and wishes of the child.

**04 Who is at risk**

Both females and males, children and adults can be victims.

Individual may be at risk if they: have a relationship with someone outside their community, are LGBT+, talk to certain people, have sex before marriage, are victim of rape, become pregnant/have a baby before marriage, wear clothes or behave in ways that are thought to be inappropriate, use drugs or alcohol, access higher education, challenge family/community beliefs, and/or disagree with religion of their family.

**03 Forms of HBA**

HBA can take many forms, including:

* domestic abuse / violence, threats, coercive and controlling behaviours, excessive restrictions on freedom, and social activities, house arrest,
* sexual harassment, assault and rape,
* psychological abuse,
* child abuse,
* kidnapping, false imprisonment,
* Female Genital Mutilation,
* Forced Marriage,
* dowry abuse
* isolation from family and community,
* denial of further education or employment,
* abandonment or sending someone back to their country of origin,
* forced suicide, and murder/“honour killing”

**02 How prevalent is HBA?**

In the year ending March 2022, there were 2,887 HBA-related offences recorded by the police in England and Wales. This was an increase of 6 per cent compared with the previous year. Homes Office Figures suggest there are approximately 12-15 honour killings in the UK each year. This does not take into account individuals who are taken abroad and never seen again.

