

DEFINING HONOUR RELATED VIOLENCE

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HONOUR BASED VIOLENCE

The term “honour crime” or “honour-related violence” embraces a variety of crimes of violence (mainly but not exclusively against women), including assault, imprisonment and murder where their family or their community is punishing the person

NON-HRV UNDERSTANDING OF “HONOUR”

- personal integrity; allegiance to moral principles
- fame or glory
- great respect, regard, esteem; an outward sign of this
- high or noble rank
- a privilege or pleasure
- to pay homage to/to be a credit to
- under a moral obligation
- out of respect for...
- on (or) upon one's honour; on the pledge of one's word or good name
- Banking, Accounting & Finance; to accept and then pay when due, a cheque or draft

HRV
UNDERSTANDING
OF HONOUR

- Behaviour that is of benefit to the family or community of individual concerned
- Bravery/courage
- Strength
- Glory
- Esteem
- Fame
- Reputation
- Respect
- Dignity

ORIGINS...

- THAR (Arabic term meaning on-going blood vengeance)
- The "honour" mentality tends to be a feature of what is sometimes called the "shame" culture
- "Shame" is not really an accurate term
- There is no specific term in English to describe this value
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- The term embodies many of the attributes of the "honour" or "feud" mentality, and comes from one of the largest languages and cultures where these values are widespread

WHAT IS HONOUR?

Honour is not a physical object that can be broken by certain behaviours



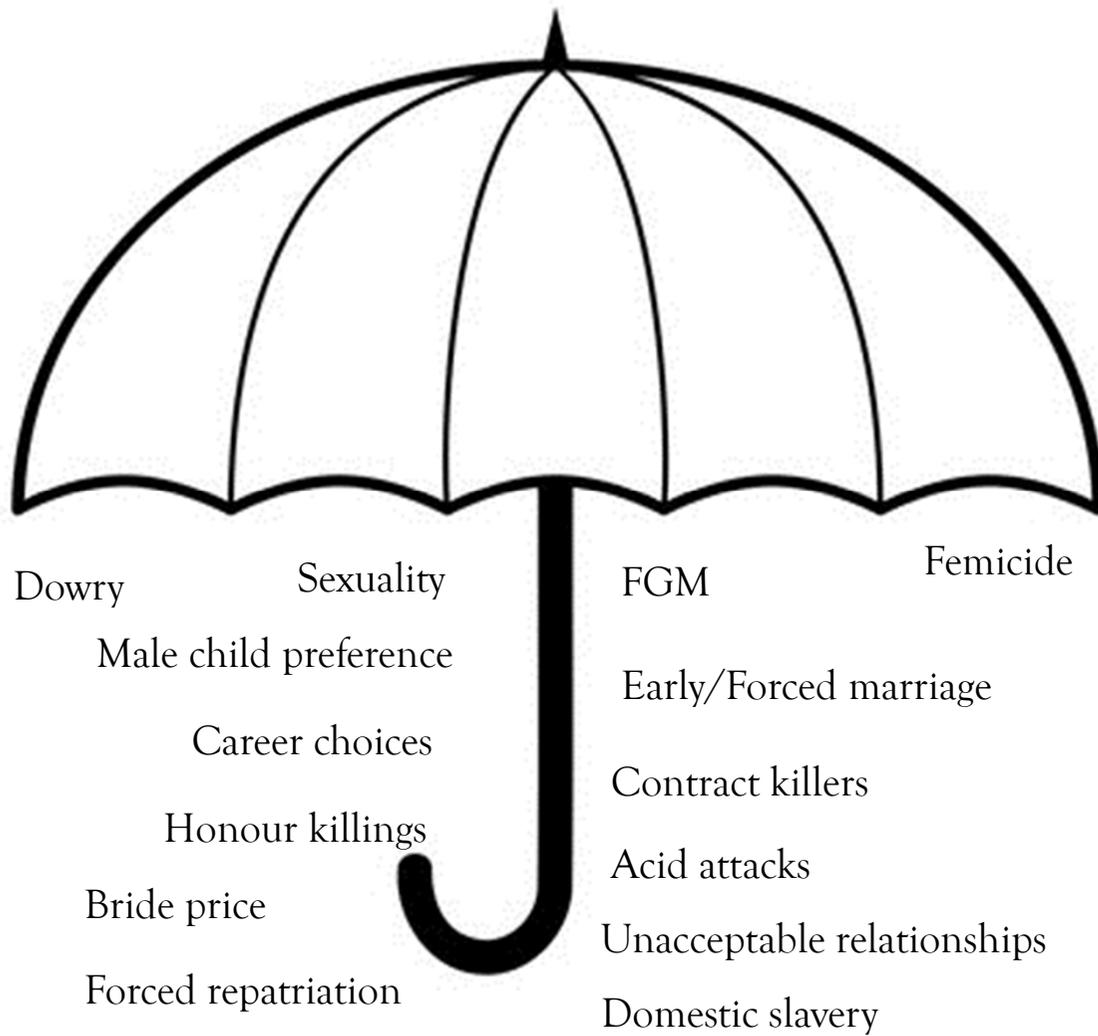
It is an absorbed code of conduct or a conditioning that certain communities carry out sub-consciously



This liquid concept is damaged by perceptions and external knowledge of unacceptable behaviours



There is less concern initially for the act and far more concern about preventing others from knowing about it



UMBRELLA OF HONOUR

FAITH PERSPECTIVE

- No major world faith condones the taking of a life
- HRV is often associated with Islam
- “If you take one life it is as though you have taken the life of all humanity. If you save one life it is as though you have saved the life of all humanity”



RESTORATION OF HONOUR

- Honour killings can be carried out in instances of rape, infidelity, flirting, or any action perceived as disgracing the family name or Izzat
- The honour is not in killing but in the restoration of family honour as a result of killing the individual in question

RESPONSIBILITY

- The main keepers and upholders of family and community honour are female, in particular young women in their teens and early twenties
- A family's reputation is based almost exclusively on the behaviour of their females
- Dress, choice of friends, relationships with the opposite sex, career choice, extra - marital friendships could all impact on a family's honour

OCCURRENCES

- Thousands of girls and women across the world (although mostly centred in the Middle East & South Asia) are murdered by male family members each year in the name of family honour
- The killings are usually carried out by male members of the family/extended family
- Usually a minor who would then receive a reduced sentence
- At least 12 honour killings in the UK each year
- Significantly under-reported

CRIME PROSECUTION SERVICE

- 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
- It 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
- The CPS, ACPO and support groups have a common definition of HBV: "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."

CPS
VIOLENCE
AGAINST
WOMEN
AND GIRLS
STRATEGY

The Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) is fully committed to prosecuting fairly and effectively all those who harm others in the name of 'honour'. This commitment is embedded in the CPS Violence against Women and Girls Strategy

NATIONAL POLICE CHIEFS' COUNCIL

- The National Police Chiefs Council's definition of Honour based Abuse is:
- *'an incident or crime involving 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'.*
- There is currently no statutory definition of HBA.

NATIONAL POLICE CHIEFS' COUNCIL

- The Police Service's vision remains nothing less than the total eradication of Honour Based Abuse (HBA), Forced Marriage (FM) and Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) from all communities
- This was our ambition in 2008 when ACPO published the first national policing strategy to tackle Honour Based Violence (as it was known as then) & FM and it remains so today with the addition of FGM
- The 2015 strategy represents the start of a transformational strategy that will take the police service further in contributing to the overall vision to prevent and eradicate Honour based Abuse, Forced Marriage and FGM

ACHIEVEMENTS TO DATE

- The adoption of the HBV definition by all police forces across England, Wales and Northern Ireland;
- Publication of an ACPO (NPCC) Communication Strategy;
- All forces have an HBA/FM and FGM force champion(s) leading their work
- There is a local, regional and national police meeting structure in place for learning and sharing best practice
- A comprehensive package of public protection training, which incorporates HBV, FM and FGM

ACHIEVEMENTS TO DATE

- Development of a joint police and CPS training package, rolled out across the CPS' 13 regions and their police force customers between July – December 2014
- 42/42 forces in England and Wales have signed protocols with the CPS for the investigation and prosecution of FGM
- HBV matters are incorporated into UK Protected Person Service Processes;
- Working in effective partnership across HM Government and with strategic and operational NGOs
- Publication of the College of Policing FGM Authorised Professional Practice

HER MAJESTY'S
INSPECTORATE OF
CONSTABULARY AND
FIRE & RESCUE
SERVICES (HMICFRS)
INDEPENDENTLY
ASSESSES THE
EFFECTIVENESS AND
EFFICIENCY OF
POLICE FORCES AND
FIRE & RESCUE
SERVICES - IN THE
PUBLIC INTEREST

- In 2015, HMIC carried out an inspection of the police response to HBV. This inspection was a continuation of work to examine the effectiveness of the police response to protecting vulnerable people
- Inspectors found that the police are not sufficiently prepared to effectively protect victims of HBV
- Pockets of good practice were found, but a lot needs to improve. The service provided to victims must get better, given that they face unique difficulties in reporting such incidents and crimes. Forces must also improve engagement with community groups that support the interests of victims, in order to understand better the complexities cases of HBV can pose, which will give victims and those affected the confidence to come forward.