

# 'Honour' Based Violence, Forced Marriage and Female Genital Mutilation: Guidance

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A multi-agency guidance document for agencies and organisations to use with cases or suspected cases of Honour Based Violence in Hampshire, Portsmouth, Southampton and the Isle of Wight.

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## Hampshire, IOW, Southampton and Portsmouth Safeguarding Adults Boards



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## **1. ABOUT THIS GUIDANCE**

- 1.1. This guidance explains how pan Hampshire agencies respond to incidents, (crime and non-crime) where Honour Based Violence (**HBV**), Forced Marriage (FM) and Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) may be a consideration.
- 1.2. It should be noted that Honour Based Violence does not and should not stand alone. **It is inexorably linked with domestic abuse and is part of the wider Government strategy to reduce violence against Women and Girls (VAWG)**. This guidance should be used in conjunction with existing domestic abuse guidance, policy and procedures.
- 1.3. It should also be noted that this is generic guidance designed to maximise agencies' responses to cases of HBV, FM and FGM (forthwith referred to as HBV). The following information outlines a range of possibilities and issues that need to be considered in HBV cases. It should also be recognised that HBV occurs across a range of differing and diverse communities for a number of different reasons, and the information needs to be applied on a case by case basis.
- 1.4. This guidance is primarily directed at:
  - Hampshire, Portsmouth Southampton and the Isle of Wight Adult and Children's Services
  - 4LSCB (Local Safeguarding Children Boards: Hampshire, Portsmouth, Southampton and the Isle of Wight)
  - 4LSAB (Local Safeguarding Adults Boards: Hampshire, Portsmouth, Southampton and the Isle of Wight)
  - Health Service providers including Primary Care, Mental Health Services and Acute and Community Hospitals
  - Voluntary and Community sector organisations
  - Criminal Justice System (Police, CPS, Probation, Courts and Prison Service)
  - Education sector, schools, colleges and universities.
- 1.5. The advice and guidance within the document enables pan-Hampshire agencies to provide an enhanced victim focussed response to incidents of HBV across the area, reflecting national guidance and best practice.

## **2. RISK ASSESSMENT/ HEALTH AND SAFETY CONSIDERATIONS**

There are no specific risk assessment or health and safety considerations for staff when following this guidance. However you must follow your own agencies' normal procedures on keeping yourself safe.

It is advised that a domestic abuse risk assessment (CAADA DASH model<sup>1</sup>) is undertaken in all circumstances. For more information and for training details, go to: [www.hdaf.org.uk](http://www.hdaf.org.uk) or [www.pippasouthampton.org](http://www.pippasouthampton.org).

## **3. EQUALITY STATEMENT and HEALTH WARNING**

All professionals working in the field of Domestic Violence must be sensitive to the diversity of their clients and be aware of their circumstances and backgrounds (age, sex, gender, race, religion, ethnicity, culture, language, marital status, sexual orientation, physical and mental and emotional ability and socio-economic status)

All professionals are bound by relevant legal instruments and local policies and procedures and organisational commitment to Equality, Diversity and Human Rights. Equality and human rights principles and legal obligations underpin all policies, strategies and procedures. This includes education and training to ensure fairness, elimination of discrimination and harassment on any person or group.

**Do not assume that all people from any particular race or ethnic group or religion are all going to have the same views about honour and its significance within the family or community. Communities are very diverse and may not react negatively to “dishonour” with any form of abuse or violence.**

Please do not be judgemental of the victim or their background. Ensure that the response is proportionate and fair, whilst being aware of your own values and judgements.

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<sup>1</sup> CAADA – Coordinated Action Against Domestic Abuse, DASH – Domestic Abuse Stalking and Harassment RIC – Risk Indicator Checklist.

## **4. BACKGROUND**

### **4.1. Honour Based Violence – Definition**

The term 'Honour Based Violence' is the internationally recognised term describing cultural justifications for violence and abuse. It justifies the use of certain types of violence and abuse against women, men and children.

The Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) defines HBV as:

*'A crime or incident, which has or may have been committed, to protect or defend the honour of the family and/or community'*.

HBV is normally associated with cultures and communities from Asia, the Middle East and Africa as well as Gypsies and Travellers<sup>2</sup> also occurs in communities in parts of Europe and Eastern Europe. In reality, HBV cuts across all cultures, nationalities, faith groups and communities and transcends national and international boundaries.

*HBV is also a Domestic Abuse issue, a Child Abuse concern and a crime.*

*In terms of Domestic Abuse risk assessment, HBV is a significant risk factor for victims and must be regarded as a significant predictor of the likelihood of future harm or homicide.*

### **4.2. Honour**

The term 'honour' has widely varying interpretations. For the purposes of this guidance however, honour relates to the concept that the reputation and social status of an individual, a family or community is based on the behaviour and morality of its members.

Honour is a fluid and entrenched concept passed down through family generations. It is generally a non-verbal and subtle aspect through the socialisation of children and young people as they are growing up and implemented through the hierarchical structures within families and communities

Honour rules and codes of behaviour are anchored within the hierarchical patriarchal framework where men have the overall power and control which ensures that women and girls behave appropriately and their physical and sexual integrity is safeguarded.

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<sup>2</sup> In addition, but not exclusively, HBV often affects people from Turkish, Kurdish, Afghani, South Asian (India, Pakistan etc.), Muslim Malaysian and Indonesian, African, middle Eastern (Oman, Yemen, Iraqi Kurdistan etc), European (Albania, Chechnya, Greece, within immigrant population in France and Germany to name but a few), and some travelling families regardless of origin.

Any behaviour outside the boundaries of the behaviour codes and rules brings dishonour, disrespect, humiliation, disgrace and shame not only for the family and the community, ethnic or faith group but also impacts on the individual concerned.

#### **4.3. Background to Honour**

It is important to try and understand the part 'honour' plays in an individual's life because this can help to understand a perpetrator/s' mindset, what might prompt someone to feel 'shamed' or 'dishonoured' and hence the lengths they might go to restore their reputation, honour and status.

The following are ways in which a person may perceive the importance of honour.

- 4.3.1. Self-awareness/pride  
Honour is important to people in all societies. However, there are some communities / societies where standards of behaviour are a significant part of an individual's image, identity and status.
- 4.3.2 Increased security and prospects for offspring  
Families who are seen to have high standards of honour and moral behaviour enjoy respect and social status including increased marriage and career prospects within their community.
- 4.3.3 Improved contacts and business opportunities  
Families with high social status can gain material benefits such as increased income for the self-employed and greater trade for owners of shops and businesses.

#### **4.4. Common ways in which honour can be damaged**

Among some communities in the UK, where family and community honour and reputation is of great importance, there are many factors which are viewed as dishonourable and may be considered as bringing shame and dishonour on the individual, their family and their community. For instance:

- 4.4.1. Defying parental authority  
Where parents and extended family are expected to control and manage the behaviour of their children, and particularly girls and young women, and who are perceived to have publicly failed to do so may lose status in the community as a result.

- 4.4.2. Dress, behaviour and attitude  
Changing patterns of dress, behaviour and attitude whilst living in the west can impact upon their relationships within the family and the community. Modesty is the code of dress generally.
- 4.4.3. Sexual relationships/ behaviour before marriage  
Pre-marital or extra-marital relationships (even of a non-sexual kind) are not acceptable in many communities and from a faith and cultural perspective may be seen as a violation of the key principles and values of that family.
- 4.4.4. Use of drugs or alcohol  
Drinking alcohol and abusing drugs or using illicit or illegal drugs which are prohibited by religion, culture or tradition and the law can bring shame on families. Their children are seen to be abandoning or rejecting the values of their parents, the family and the community and breaking the law of the land.
- 4.4.5. Gossip  
Rumours and gossip, even if untrue, can damage the status and reputation of an individual and of course the family and community.

#### **4.5. Dishonour**

Specific behaviours, attitudes and actions that may constitute 'dishonour' are wide ranging and include:

- Reporting Domestic Abuse
- Smoking cigarettes or drugs
- Perceived inappropriate make-up or dress
- Running away from home
- Rape, sexual harassment or assault
- The existence of a boyfriend or other 'non-approved' relationship
- Pregnancy before or outside marriage
- Interfaith, intercaste, or interethnic relationships
- Rejecting a forced or arranged marriage
- Leaving a spouse and/ or children
- Seeking divorce particularly where the dowry may be large
- Seeking child custody
- Bearing a female child/ children
- Kissing, holding hands or other intimacy in a public place
- Sexual relations, sexual integrity and behaviour prior to marriage, within marriage, post divorce or when a widow
- Homosexuality – being 'outed' or 'coming out' to others

#### **4.6. Consequences of damaged honour**

The consequences for a person who is perceived to have damaged their honour or that of their family or community can be extreme, and includes the following:

##### **4.6.1 Exclusion by family and community**

Individuals who are viewed as having dishonoured themselves or their families can be ignored and ostracised by other members of the community. Their children may also be rejected at school by fellow members of their cultural, ethnic or religious group.

##### **4.6.2 Economic and Business disadvantage**

Families whose honour is damaged may find their shops and businesses being boycotted or physically attacked by community members who believe that their collective honour has been damaged.

In some cases the dowry paid out in marriage may be much smaller than expected and that may increase the risk of abuse for the victim.

##### **4.6.3 Social and Political consequences**

Community leaders and politicians can lose support, prestige and influence as a result.

##### **4.6.4 Health Impact**

Individuals who are perceived to have damaged their honour or members within their families may lose self esteem and confidence and may become depressed, self harm, suicidal or abusive. Feelings of shame can affect their interactions with other members of their families/ community and can leave them isolated and lonely.

##### **4.6.5 Abuse and violence as a consequence of dishonour and shame may include:**

- Self harm, Suicide or attempted suicide as a result of controls and abuse
- Forced suicide/ attempted suicide as an inflicted act or punishment
- Controlling sexual activity (e.g. forcing or withholding sexual activity)
- Child abuse
- Rape
- Kidnapping or false imprisonment
- Threats to kill
- Assault
- Harassment/ stalking
- Bullying
- Forced abortion

- Being forced into marriage
- Pressure to return home
- Pressure to go abroad
- House 'arrest' and restriction of movement within and outside the home.
- Excessive restrictions on home life (not allowed a phone, to use internet or develop friendships outside of wider family / friends circle etc.)

*This list is not exhaustive, but highlights abuses of human rights and/ or criminal offences over and above the disapproval by family/ community.*

#### **4.7. Honour Killings**

Honour killings are an extreme example of violation of the human rights of mainly women who are perceived to have brought shame or dishonour.

Articles of the European Convention on Human Rights which apply:

Article 2: Everyone has the right to life, liberty and security of person,

Article 3: No one shall be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment,

Article 12: Men and women of marriageable age, without any limitation due to race, nationality or religion, have the right to marry and to found a family.

There have been a number of high profile cases in the United Kingdom where women have lost their lives in a brutal and 'symbolic' manner in recent years.

#### **4.8. Forced Marriages**

Arranged marriages are not forced marriages. In many countries marriages are/ may be arranged where both bride and groom voluntarily and **willingly** marry after being introduced by their families or close family friends and, sometimes, **by** marriage bureaux.

However, it is important to note that processes and structures used for arranged marriages can also be used to bring about a forced marriage.

A forced marriage is a marriage in which one or both spouses do not (or, in the case of some adults with learning or physical disabilities, can not) consent to the marriage and duress is involved. Duress can include physical, psychological, financial, sexual and emotional pressure.

**Forced marriage is now an offence, even if legal in the country where the child will be married. If a child is to be forced into marriage this is also child abuse. Both adults and children require urgent responses.**

Forced Marriage UK definition: a marriage conducted without the valid consent of one or both parties where duress is a factor.

Forced marriage definition United Nations: a forced marriage is a form of human rights abuse, since it violates the principle of the freedom and autonomy of individuals.

Agencies should also work to the national guidelines on forced marriage issued by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office's Forced Marriage Unit:  
<http://www.fco.gov.uk/resources/en/pdf/3849543/forced-marriage-guidelines09.pdf>

**Practice guidance has been issued to help professionals dealing with forced marriage of people with learning disabilities:**  
[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/35533/fm-disability-guidelines.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/35533/fm-disability-guidelines.pdf)

For further information go to  
<http://www.fco.gov.uk/en/travel-and-living-abroad/when-things-go-wrong/forced-marriage>.

#### **4.9. Dowry Abuse**

Dowry or 'Dahej' is the payment in cash and/ or kind by a bride's family to the bridegroom's family, along with the giving away of the bride. The custom originates from the Indian subcontinent and is called 'Kanyadaan'. However, the dowry is commonly exchanged in other cultural and faith groups. It is worth noting that, depending on the culture/ faith, dowry payments can be made by either the bride or the groom's family.

Dowry abuse is often where the bride or groom is perceived to have brought in less dowry than expected (monetary or otherwise) by the in-laws. Alternatively, the dowry could have been a 'promised' amount, and in the event of a relationship breakdown, this is not paid. Both situations can result in the mistreatment or abuse of either party.

#### **4.10. Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)**

FGM (also known as female circumcision) **is a form of child abuse and is an act of violence against women and girls. It should therefore be dealt with as part of existing child and adult protection structures, policies and procedures.** It is an extreme form of domestic abuse. The term FGM is used to refer to the removal of part or all of the female genitalia for cultural or other non-therapeutic reasons. This is extremely painful and has serious consequences for physical and mental health. It can also result in death.

**It is illegal to practice FGM in the UK. It is also illegal to take a child abroad for FGM even if legal in that country. It is crucial that prevention**

**is the focus of interventions in cases of FGM and Child Protection procedures should be adhered to in all cases where FGM is suspected (see [www.4LSCB.org.uk](http://www.4LSCB.org.uk) ).**

There are four types of FGM:

**Type 1** (known as sunna): Removal of clitoris hood or clitoris hood and clitoris

**Type 2:** Removal of clitoris and partial or full removal of labia minora (inner vaginal lips)

**Type 3:** Removal of clitoris labia minora with narrowing/stitching of the vaginal opening (known as infibulation)

**Type 4:** Any other forms of piercing, inserting substances (corrosive substances or herbs), burning of the clitoris and surrounding tissue.

Go to <http://www.forwarduk.org.uk/key-issues/fgm> or <http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/publications/crime/FGM?view=Binary> for further information.

#### **4.11. Triggers and warning signs for HBV, FM and FGM**

Some of the triggers have already been outlined above, but it is important to be aware of and respond to any warning signs that might become apparent to you. These can include:

- Truancy/ poor attendance in the workplace
- Decline in performance or punctuality
- Low motivation at school
- Poor exam results
- Being withdrawn from education by those with parental responsibility
- Not allowed to attend extra-curricular activities
- Self harm/ attempted suicide
- Eating disorders
- Depression
- Isolation
- Substance misuse
- Siblings forced to marry (history of siblings leaving education early)
- Family disputes, including child custody issues
- Running away from home
- Unreasonable restrictions e.g. house arrest
- Excessive family restrictions and control of movements
- Other young people within the family reported missing

- Reports of domestic violence/abuse or breaches of the peace at the family home
- Frequent gynaecological problems; e.g. Urinary Tract Infections (UTIs), menstruation problems and consummation of marriage / conception.
- Concerns raised about other behaviours e.g. shoplifting or substance misuse
- Unreasonable financial control e.g. confiscation of wages/income
- Family control of career choice
- External agencies being involved in family matters

## **5. 5. GUIDANCE**

### **5.1 Take it Seriously**

It is essential to take ‘honour’ based violence, forced marriage or female genital mutilation, or even a suspicion or suggestion of it, with the utmost seriousness. Women, girls and men at risk of ‘honour’ based violence may understate the risks posed to them.

The one chance rule: A potential victim may only have one chance to ask for help. You may only have one chance to provide help. It is important to get it right on the first occasion.

Do not underestimate the risk to life that can be posed to individuals experiencing ‘honour’ based violence. Also, be aware that other family members or friends who may be seen to be condoning or supporting the behaviour of the victim may also be at risk. Always seek advice from the Police Public Protection Department Safeguarding Team and/ or Children’s Services (if the individual is under 18), and/ or Adult’s Services (if the individual is vulnerable/ at risk).

**In an emergency ALWAYS dial 999.**

There is also a quick reference flowchart available in the appendix of this document, including a useful contacts list.

### **5.2 Investigating and Responding to Reports or Suspicions of HBV, FM and FGM - Initial Actions**

In all cases when responding to reports of HBV, the victim’s immediate safety must be the overriding concern. At the earliest opportunity inform and discuss the matter with your line manager and in line with your own organisation and locally agreed Safeguarding Procedures.

A victim of HBV, FM or FGM will have overcome immense cultural/ traditional and personal beliefs, to have spoken to a trusted friend or

professional, or make contact with your agency. Alternatively, a professional or friend may raise their concerns or suspicions about actual or intended HBV. It is vital that agencies respond immediately and effectively to keep the victim safe. The need for 'positive action' is fundamental to an effective and timely response.

- It is crucial to listen to the victim or potential victim's concerns – remember that they may not be able to articulate why they believe they are at risk or provide tangible evidence of the risks.
- **Do not** approach the victim's family or community leaders – this could heighten the risk to the victim,
- **Do not** attempt any form of mediation or reconciliation with the family and/ or community members,
- **Do not** make assumptions or judgements based on perceptions of 'cultural difference,'
- Reassure the victim, take the threats to their safety very seriously and offer support. It is imperative to treat all individuals with the utmost sensitivity and seriousness,
- Ensure confidentiality as this is essential – particularly from the family and other community members,
- Assess the situation and clearly highlight all options to the victim to ensure safety measures are in place whatever decision the victim makes even if it is returning back home,
- Remove the victim to a place of safety, not known to family and friends if that is the option chosen by them,
- Ensure that your local Public Protection Department Safeguarding Team is aware right from the outset – they will be able to put the victim in touch with local and/or national support services,
- If it is necessary to use an interpreter, always use a professional service. NEVER use friends or family (including children) or community members. Ensure that interpreters are not connected to the individual or community. Seek the details of the interpreter and check this with the individual where possible for their consent to use that interpreter. Always brief and debrief the interpreter. Seek counselling for the interpreter in extreme cases, under your duty of care,

- Offer options to the individual, where available, to ensure they are comfortable with the contact person they have; this may be someone from the same or opposite gender, or someone from their own or another community.
- If living away from home, advise the victim to change their mobile if they have one so that relatives cannot make direct contact, cause the signal to be 'tracked' or use billing details to locate the victim.
- Establish a safe means of keeping in contact with the victim, including the use of 'code-words' to verify identities. This is also important when text messaging.
- Establish a means of continued contact. Agree safe times to call and explain practicalities, especially if your telephone number may come up on a mobile as unidentified or withheld.
- Keep in touch with the individual using their preferred method of communication – ensuring this is safe.
- Assess the risk to any children, e.g. offspring, siblings etc. and make any necessary referrals.
- Be wary of using some public services like taxis, housing, health. This may jeopardise the victim's safety (family or community members may work in these services and/ or be alerted).
- Advise the victim's employers of the situation if it is deemed safe to do so.
- **Remember**, HBV is everybody's concern and vigilance is required at all levels in all agencies.

**In addition the police will:**

- Take the DNA, photograph and fingerprints of the victim (with their consent) (see further information below)
- Establish a safe means of keeping in contact with the victim, including the use of code-words to verify identities. This will not be put onto the Records Management System working sheets or in other accessible places where sympathisers may be able to gain access to it.
- Request the victim to give their passport for safekeeping, in the event that family or friends attempt to force the victim to leave the UK. (Ask

if the victim holds dual-nationality – they may hold more than one passport)

- Devise an action plan so that in the event of an emergency, responding officers understand exactly what they are going into
- Consider advising the victim to change their identity via deed poll for the purposes of their safety.
- **The Police will not** send the victim away believing that HBV is not a police matter – **HBV is a police matter**

**Hampshire Constabulary policy and procedure 02408 outlines the force response to Honour Based Violence.**

### **5.3 If the individual is under 18**

**If the individual concerned is under 18 existing Child Protection procedures should be instigated, using the 4LSCB procedures<sup>3</sup>. This means making contact and / or a referral to:**

Children's Services

**In an emergency ALWAYS call 999.**

To refer to Children's Services:

**Hampshire County Council Children's Services:**

0845 603 5620 (office hours)

0845 600 45 55 (emergencies and out of hours)

**Isle of Wight Children's Services:**

01983 814374 (office hours)

01983 821105 (out of hours)

**Portsmouth Children Social Care (Joint Action Team):**

0845 6710271

**Southampton Children's First Team**

[children.first@southampton.gov.uk](mailto:children.first@southampton.gov.uk)

023 8083 3336 (office hours)

023 8023 3344 (out of hours)

For an outline of what Children's Services will do, see Appendix A.

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<sup>3</sup>See [www.4lscb.org.uk](http://www.4lscb.org.uk) or <http://www.4lscb.org.uk/documents/4lscbproceduresupdated220708.pdf>

**5.4 For individuals over 18:**

Encourage those over 18 to make a report to the local Police Public Protection Department Safeguarding Team who specialise in responses to domestic abuse, child protection, adult abuse, honour violence and forced marriage. They are sensitive to the needs of individuals experiencing and reporting crimes of this nature.

If the adult is considered 'vulnerable'<sup>4</sup> or defined as being 'at risk,' adult safeguarding procedures should be instigated using the 4LSAB framework.

For adults at risk a referral should be made to:

**Hampshire County Council Adult Services:**

0845 603 5630 (office hours)

0845 600 45 55 (emergencies and out of hours)

**Isle of Wight Adult Services:**

01983 814980 (office hours)

01983 821105 (out of hours)

**Portsmouth Adult Social Care:**

02392 680810

**Other Portsmouth area contacts:**

Early Intervention Project: 023 92 688586

Aurora New Dawn: 023 92 479254

**Southampton Adult Services**

[adult.contact.team@southampton.gov.uk](mailto:adult.contact.team@southampton.gov.uk)

023 8083 3003 (office hours)

023 8023 3344 (out of hours)

**Other Southampton area contacts:**

Pippa (offering an advice line for workers and professionals seeking advice, support or referral about cases of domestic and sexual violence):  
02380 917917 (9.30-4.30 Monday – Friday)

For an outline of what the Adult Services will do, see Appendix B.

For an outline of what the Police will do, see Appendix C.

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<sup>4</sup> "A 'vulnerable adult' is a person over 18 years old: who is or may be in need of community care services by reason of mental or other disability, age or illness; AND who is or may be unable to take care of him or herself, OR unable to protect him or herself against significant harm or exploitation."  
(No Secrets 2000)

### **5.5 Forced Marriage**

If Forced Marriage is an issue you should also contact the Government Forced Marriage Unit (FMU), where experienced caseworkers are able to offer support and guidance, by calling 020 7008 0151 or by visiting the FMU page<sup>5</sup> of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office website. You can also contact your local Police Public Protection Department Safeguarding Team (101).

### **5.6 Missing People**

Missing people, especially young women or girls, require further consideration when assessing their motivations for 'running off'. Documented cases have shown that girls and young women have, for instance, left a family home in order to escape both arranged and forced marriages.

Staff should be aware that family and community members may attempt to enlist the police and other agencies in their efforts to locate someone who has 'gone missing.' They may seek to embellish the report by exaggerating the subject's vulnerability, when in fact the person is actually trying to flee HBV.

Similarly, family and community may allege false crimes and name the missing person as the perpetrator, again, to enlist police resources into finding the subject.

Likewise, there have been cases in the UK where families and community members have attempted to thwart police investigations into missing people by withholding information or actively seeking to misdirect police enquiries.

Whatever the apparent circumstances, staff who deal with such incidents must consider the potential lethal consequences of simply returning a missing person to their family.

### **5.7 No Recourse to Public Funds**

Women who have recently arrived in the UK are often unable to escape violence and abuse from their husbands or in-laws because of the 'No Recourse to Public Funds' (NRPF) rule which prevents immigrants from claiming many forms of benefits within two years of arriving in the UK<sup>6</sup>.

The introduction of the Destitution Domestic Violence (DDV) concession aims to protect those eligible under the DDV concession who are victims

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<sup>5</sup> <http://www.fco.gov.uk/en/travel-and-living-abroad/when-things-go-wrong/forced-marriage>

<sup>6</sup> Centre For Social Cohesion, Crimes of the Community, 2008

of domestic abuse. This allows them to notify the UK Border Agency that they need to access public funds as a victim of domestic violence while they make a claim for indefinite leave to remain in the UK.

Refuges housing women with no recourse to public funds are provided with funding for four weeks (20 working days) to cover essential living and housing costs. During this time an application should be made for indefinite leave to remain under the domestic violence rule.

Guidance has been produced for Hampshire and the Isle of Wight on how to access funds for women experiencing domestic abuse, including those subject to 'honour' based violence. This is available at:  
[http://www.hdaf.org.uk/?page\\_id=391](http://www.hdaf.org.uk/?page_id=391).

## **6. ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

### **6.1. All Staff**

It is the responsibility of all staff to comply with this guidance. Front line supervisors in particular have a crucial role to play in ensuring that when staff respond to a HBV, FM, FGM or domestic abuse incident or disclosure:

- They do so promptly and in compliance with protocol, policy and procedure,
- That action is taken to protect the lives of victims and any children involved,
- That initial risk identification procedures are carried out (using the CAADA DASH risk assessment),
- That perpetrators are held to account,
- That relevant assessment and referrals regarding children have been completed where applicable and account taken of other children in the family who may also be at risk, now or in the future,
- That supervisors ensure cases are progressed expeditiously and this guidance is adhered to,
- That victims are updated regularly with the progress of their case.

**7. ADMINISTRATION**

Reported incidents of HBV and domestic abuse should always be recorded using your agency's formal procedures.

**8. MONITORING AND EVALUATION**

Individual agencies should regularly monitor compliance of their staff with this guidance and notify the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Domestic Abuse Management Group of any issues arising. This group also holds overall responsibility for the review and monitoring of this guidance.

**9. REVIEW**

This guidance will be reviewed annually by the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Domestic Abuse Management Group, taking into account Home Office policy and guidelines published from time to time.

**10. RELATED POLICIES, PROCEDURES, AND INFORMATION SOURCES**

**Policy and procedure**

The guidance should be read and used in conjunction with other domestic abuse policy, procedure and protocol be that multi-agency policy, or that specific to your own organisation.

**Risk assessment procedures**

Agencies should also strongly consider adopting and working with a formally recognised risk assessment procedure, for example, those based on CAADA's DASH risk assessment process. A multi-agency version of this risk assessment toolkit is available from [www.caada.org.uk](http://www.caada.org.uk) or at [www.hdaf.org.uk](http://www.hdaf.org.uk).

## **11. USEFUL CONTACTS AND ORGANISATIONS**

**In an emergency, always dial 999**

### **LOCAL CONTACTS**

#### **Hampshire Constabulary:**

In an emergency always dial 999

101 (ask for your local Public Protection Department Safeguarding Team or PPD)

#### **Hampshire County Council**

##### **Children's Services**

0845 603 5620 (office hours)

0845 600 45 55 (emergencies and out of hours)

##### **Adult Services**

0845 603 5630 (office hours)

0845 600 45 55 (emergencies and out of hours)

#### **Isle of Wight**

##### **Children's Services:**

01983 814374 (office hours)

01983 821105 (out of hours)

##### **Adult's Services:**

01983 814980 (office hours)

01983 821105 (out of hours)

#### **Portsmouth**

##### **Children Social Care (Joint Action Team):**

0845 6710271

##### **Adult Social Care:**

02392 680810

##### **Other Portsmouth area contacts:**

Early Intervention Project: 023 92 688586

Aurora New Dawn: 023 92 479254

#### **Southampton**

##### **Southampton Children's First Team**

[children.first@southampton.gov.uk](mailto:children.first@southampton.gov.uk)

023 8083 3336 (office hours)

023 8023 3344 (out of hours)

##### **Southampton Adult Services**

[adult.contact.team@southampton.gov.uk](mailto:adult.contact.team@southampton.gov.uk)

023 8083 3003 (office hours)

023 8023 3344 (out of hours)

**Other Southampton area contacts:**

Pippa (offering an advice line for workers and professionals seeking advice, support or referral about cases of domestic and sexual violence): 02380 917917 (9.30-4.30 Monday – Friday)

**Local Interpreting & translation services**

**Access to Communication**

023 8024 1300

[Camy.bailey@scpct.nhs.uk](mailto:Camy.bailey@scpct.nhs.uk)

[Angela.wyatt@scpct.nhs.uk](mailto:Angela.wyatt@scpct.nhs.uk)

**Lingland**

01489 576657

[Barbara.storey.lingland@o2.co.uk](mailto:Barbara.storey.lingland@o2.co.uk)

**Wessex Translations**

0870 1669 300

**SG Translations Services**

023 9287 3345

[www.sgtranslation.net](http://www.sgtranslation.net)

**South Coast Translations**

023 9273 4200

[www.southcoasttranslations.co.uk](http://www.southcoasttranslations.co.uk)

**National Contacts**

**24 Hour National Domestic Violence Helpline**

0808 2000 247

[www.womensaid.org.uk](http://www.womensaid.org.uk)

**Aanchal (Newham-based, London)**

0845 4512547 (24 hour helpline) Asian languages spoken

Afruca (Africans Unite Against Child Abuse)

0161 953 4712

[www.afruca.org](http://www.afruca.org)

**Ashiana Project (London)**

020 8539 0427

**Ashiana (Sheffield)**

0114 255 5740

**Asylum Aid**

020 7247 8741

[www.asylumaid.org.uk](http://www.asylumaid.org.uk)

**Border & Immigration Agency**

01304 873 126

[www.bia.homeoffice.gov.uk](http://www.bia.homeoffice.gov.uk)

**Forced Marriage Unit**

020 7008 0151

[www.fco.gov.uk/forcedmarriage](http://www.fco.gov.uk/forcedmarriage)

**Hemat Gryffe Women's Aid (Glasgow)**

Tel: 0141 353 0859

**Imkaan**

020 7473 9945

[www.imkaan.org.uk](http://www.imkaan.org.uk)

**Immigration Advisory Service**

020 7976 1200

[www.iasuk.org](http://www.iasuk.org)

**Iranian & Kurdish Women's Rights Organisation**

0207 490 0303 (24 hrs)

Email: [ikwro@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:ikwro@yahoo.co.uk)

**Karma Nirvana**

0800 5999 247

[www.karmanirvana.org.uk](http://www.karmanirvana.org.uk)

**NASS (Public Enquiry Office)**

0870 606 7766

Lunar House, 40 Wellesley Road, Croydon, CR9 2BY

**Newham Asian Women's Project (NAWP) (London)**

0208 472 0528

**NRPF Network**

020 7527 7107

[www.islington.gov.uk/nrpfnetwork](http://www.islington.gov.uk/nrpfnetwork)

**Refugee Action**

023 9285 7561

[www.refugee-action.org.uk](http://www.refugee-action.org.uk)

**Refugee Council**

020 7346 6700

[www.refugeecouncil.org.uk](http://www.refugeecouncil.org.uk)

**Refugee Legal Centre**

023 9286 1469

[www.refugee-legal-centre.org.uk](http://www.refugee-legal-centre.org.uk)

**Roshni (Nottingham Asian Women's Aid)**

Tel: 0115 948 3450 24 hour

**Southall Black Sisters**

020 8571 9595

[www.southallblacksisters.org.uk](http://www.southallblacksisters.org.uk)

**Survivors' Network**

01273 720 110

[www.survivorsnetwork.org.uk](http://www.survivorsnetwork.org.uk)

**The Law Centres Federation**

provides free independent legal advice and representation to the most disadvantaged members of society.

[www.lawcentres.org.uk](http://www.lawcentres.org.uk)

**Women's Aid Survivor's Handbook**

[www.womensaid.org.uk](http://www.womensaid.org.uk)

## **APPENDIX A – What will Children’s Services do?**

Once contacted, Children’s Social Care will evaluate the information or referral immediately (within one working day) and make a decision about the next course of action. No contact should be made with the family until there has been an agreed strategy with the police due to the need to consider the possible protection of the victim from abuse/ disappearance.

All referrals involving suspected honour based violence, forced marriage or female genital mutilation potentially involve complex and sensitive issues and social workers should:

- ✓ Inform and discuss the matter with their first line manager,
- ✓ Consider the need for expert/ cultural advice from Home Office Forced Marriage Unit (FMU) and/or any local sources and,
- ✓ Refer to the Police Public Protection Department, because of the likelihood that crimes may have been committed,
- ✓ Consider the need to consult the lead safeguarding/ child protection manager for expert advice,
- ✓ Complete a CAADA DASH risk assessment for children 16 years and older.

Police and Children’s Social Care will liaise to agree the appropriate level of intervention required. They should try to obtain the following information:

- ✓ Details of referrer and relationship with child
- ✓ Details of individual child under threat (including nationality, date of birth, passport details, school and employment details)
- ✓ Full details of the allegation
- ✓ Name and address of those with parental responsibility
- ✓ Background family information and any history of forced marriage

In all cases, efforts will be made to see the child immediately, on her/ his own in a secure and private place. This should be done jointly with Police following a strategy discussion/ meeting which includes an assessment of risk to the child/ren.<sup>7</sup>

You should also contact Children’s Services if you have concerns about a child as a result of the risk faced by their mother/ father/ primary carer.

If Forced Marriage is an issue you should also contact the Government Forced Marriage Unit (FMU), where experienced caseworkers are able to offer support and guidance, by calling 020 7008 0151 or by visiting the FMU page<sup>8</sup> of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office website.

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<sup>7</sup> Taken from 4LSCB Procedures, Forced Marriage page 279.

<sup>8</sup> <http://www.fco.gov.uk/en/travel-and-living-abroad/when-things-go-wrong/forced-marriage>

## **APPENDIX B - What will Adult Services do?**

Once contacted, Adult Services will evaluate the information or referral immediately (within 24 hours) and make a decision about the next course of action. No contact should be made with the family until there has been an agreed strategy with the police due to the need to consider the possible protection of the victim from abuse/disappearance.

All referrals involving suspected honour based violence, forced marriage or female genital mutilation potentially involve complex and sensitive issues and social workers should:

- ✓ Inform and discuss the matter with their first line manager
- ✓ Consider the need for expert / cultural advice from Home Office Forced Marriage Unit (FMU) and/or any local sources and
- ✓ (Because of the likelihood that crimes may have been committed) refer to the Police Public Protection Department.
- ✓ Consider the need to consult the lead safeguarding /adult protection manager for expert advice
- ✓ Complete a CAADA DASH risk assessment
- ✓ Police and Adult Services will liaise to agree the appropriate level of intervention required

In all cases efforts will be made to see the adult immediately, on her/his own in a secure and private place. This should be done jointly with Police following a strategy discussion / meeting which includes an assessment of risk to the adult(s).

If Forced Marriage is an issue you should also contact the Governments Forced Marriage Unit (FMU), where experienced caseworkers are able to offer support and guidance, by calling 020 7008 0151 or by visiting the FMU page<sup>9</sup> of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office website.

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<sup>9</sup> <http://www.fco.gov.uk/en/travel-and-living-abroad/when-things-go-wrong/forced-marriage>

## **APPENDIX C – What will the Police do?**

The Public Protection Departments consists of teams made up of officers and staff who manage dangerous offenders and support vulnerable groups. Within the unit there are specialist Domestic Abuse Officers and Co-ordinators who follow county and national police guidance on responding to Honour Based Violence and Forced Marriage. In short, they will:

- Carry out a full risk assessment of the situation with the individual
- Ensure that the case is appropriately dealt with normally by the Public Protection Department Vulnerable Adult or Child Abuse Investigation Team (VAIT and CAIT).
- Carry out immediate action to ensure the safety of the individual.

The Police will not:

- Send the victim away believing that it is not a police matter
- Approach the family or community leaders
- Attempt any form of mediation

## **Appendix D**

Quick reference guide (see overleaf) for how to deal with cases or suspected cases of HBV, FM & FGM:

( print double sided)



Honour Based Violence  
**is suspected, disclosed or identified**

Is the person concerned  
under 18 years old?

**Under 18**

**Over 18**

**Follow Child Protection Procedures**

Immediately contact Children's Services on:

Hampshire & Portsmouth:  
0845 600 45 55  
Southampton:  
023 8083 3336  
Isle of Wight:  
01983 821105

**Encourage those over 18 to make a report to the Police.**

Dial 101 and ask for your local Public Protection Department Safeguarding Unit.

**In an emergency dial 999.**

Professionals can also speak to their PPD for advice, if necessary without giving details of the client.

If an adult is 'at risk', follow Safeguarding Adults Procedures & contact Adult's Services (see overleaf for contact details).

## INITIAL ACTIONS

- Reassure the victim, take the threats to their safety very seriously and offer support. It is imperative to treat all individuals with the utmost sensitivity and seriousness.
- Ensure confidentiality as this is essential – particularly from the family and other community members
- NEVER send an individual back to their family
- Do not make assumptions or judgements based on perceptions of ‘cultural difference’.
- Remove the victim to a place of safety, not known to family and friends
- Ensure that your local Public Protection Department Safeguarding Team is aware right from the outset – they will be able to put the victim in touch with local and/or national support services
- If it is necessary to use an interpreter, always use an official service; never use friends or family or community members. Ensure that interpreters are not connected to the individual. Seek the details of the interpreter before using them and check this with the individual where possible
- Offer options to the individual, where available, to ensure they are comfortable with the contact person they have; this may be someone from the same or opposite gender, or someone from their own or another community.
- Advise the victim to change their mobile if they have one so that relatives cannot make direct contact or cause the signal to be ‘tracked’.
- Establish a safe means of keeping in contact with the victim, including the use of ‘code-words’ to verify identities. This is also important when text messaging.
- Establish a means of continued contact – agree safe times to call and explain practicalities for example if your telephone number may come up on a mobile as unidentified or withheld.
- Keep in touch with the individual using their preferred method of communication – ensuring this is safe.
- Be wary of using some public services like taxis, housing, health and whether this jeopardises the victim’s safety (family or community members may work in these services and/or be alerted).
- **Do not** approach the victim’s family or community leaders – you could well heighten the risk to the victim
- **Do not** attempt any form of mediation or reconciliation with the family and / or community members

## USEFUL CONTACTS

**Hampshire Constabulary:** 101 or 999 in an emergency

### **Children’s Services**

Hampshire	0845 600 45 55
Isle of Wight	01983 814374
Portsmouth	02392 680810
Southampton	023 8083 3336

### **Adult Services**

Hampshire	0845 600 45 55
Isle of Wight	01983 814980
Portsmouth	0845 6710271
Southampton	023 8083 3003

**24 Hour National Domestic Violence Helpline:** 0808 200 247

**Karma Nirvana:** 0800 5999 247

**Southall Black Sisters:** 020 8571 9595

**REMEMBER:** Always assess the risk of any children involved and make any relevant referrals!

### **Where appropriate or necessary:**

- Seek the advice of the Forced Marriage Unit if this is an issue for the individual by calling 020 7008 0151 or by visiting the [FMU page](#) of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office website.
- Provide contact details for support organisations or make contact on the individuals behalf if required
- Follow procedures and guidance agreed for your organisation for domestic abuse, forced marriage and / or female genital mutilation (see [www.4lscb.org.uk](http://www.4lscb.org.uk)) and Hants DA Forum guidance for assisting individuals with No Recourse to Public Funds (NRPF) [www.hdaf.org.uk](http://www.hdaf.org.uk).