

PROCEDURES AND GUIDANCE

Honour Based Abuse and Forced Marriage

Date of original document	June 2018
Date document reviewed	
Date for next review	December 2020



1. RECOGNITION

A child who is at risk of Honour Based Abuse or forced marriage is at significant risk of physical harm (including being murdered) and/or neglect, and may also suffer significant harm through the threat of violence or witnessing violence directed towards a sibling or other family member. Significant harm is defined as a situation where a child is likely to suffer a degree of physical harm which is such that it requires a compulsory intervention by child protection agencies into the life of the child and their family.

Honour Based Abuse and or forced marriage cuts across all cultures and communities, and cases encountered in the UK have involved families from Turkish, Kurdish, Afghani, South Asian, African, Middle Eastern, South and Eastern European communities.

Murders in the name of 'so-called honour' are often the culmination of a series of events over a period of time and are planned. There tends to be a degree of premeditation, family conspiracy and a belief that the victim deserved to die. Incidents which may precede a murder include:

- Physical abuse;
- Emotional abuse, including:
 - house arrest and excessive restrictions;
 - denial or access to the telephone, internet, passport and friends;
 - threats to kill;
 - Pressure to go abroad. Victims are sometimes persuaded to return to their country of origin under false pretences, when in fact the intention could be to kill them.

Children sometimes truant from school to obtain relief from being policed at home by relatives. They can feel isolated from their family and social networks and become depressed, which can on some occasions lead to self-harm or suicide.

Families may feel shame long after the incident that brought about dishonour occurred, and therefore the risk of harm to a child can persist. This means that the young person's new boy/girlfriend, baby (if pregnancy caused the family to feel 'shame'), associates or siblings may be at risk of harm.

2. DISCLOSURE AND RESPONSE

When receiving a disclosure from a child, professionals should recognize the seriousness/immediacy of the risk of harm. For a child to report to any agency that they have fears of Honour Based Abuse or forced marriage in respect of themselves or a family member requires a lot of courage, and trust that the professional /agency they disclose to will respond appropriately. Specifically, under no circumstances should the agency allow the child's family or social network to find out about the disclosure, so as not to put the child at further risk of harm.

Authorities in some countries may support the practice of Honour Based Abuse or forced marriage and the child may be concerned that other agencies share this view, or that they will be returned to their family. The child may be carrying guilt about their rejection of culture/family expectations. Furthermore, their immigration status may be dependent on their family, which could be used to dissuade them from seeking assistance.

Where a child discloses fear of Honour Based Abuse or forced marriage, professionals in all agencies should respond by:

- Seeing the child immediately in a secure and private place;
- Seeing the child on their own;
- Explaining to the child the limits of confidentiality;
- Asking direct questions to gather enough information to make a referral to Local Authority Children's Social Care and the Police, including recording the child's wishes;

- Encouraging and/or helping the child to complete a personal risk assessment;
- Developing an emergency safety plan with the child;
- Agreeing a means of discreet future contact with the child;
- Explaining that a referral to Local Authority Children’s Social Care and the Police will be made;
- Record all discussions and decisions (including rationale if no decision is made to refer to the Local Authority Children’s Social Care).

Professionals should not approach the family or community leaders, share any information with them or attempt any form of mediation. In particular, members of the local community should not be used as interpreters.

All multi-agency discussions should recognize the Police responsibility to initiate and undertake a criminal investigation as appropriate. Multi-agency planning should consider the need for providing suitable safe accommodation for the child, as appropriate.

If a child is taken abroad, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office may assist in repatriating them to the UK.

3. HONOUR BASED ABUSE (HBA)

Honour Based Abuse (HBA) is a crime or incident committed to protect or defend the honour of a family and/or community. HBV does not cover one specific crime; it generally occurs in domestic settings and can involve a range of offending behaviours which are used against individuals, families or other social groups to control and protect perceived cultural / religious beliefs and honour.

HBA may include murder, fear of or actual forced marriage, controlling sexual activity, domestic violence and abuse (including psychological, physical, sexual, financial or emotional), child abuse, rape, kidnapping, false imprisonment, assault, harassment and forced abortion. This list is not exhaustive. These crimes cut across all cultures, nationalities, faith groups and communities. They transcend national and international boundaries; they are violations of human rights and there is no ‘honour’ in the commission of them. Offences of Honour Based Abuse are prosecuted under the specific offence committed e.g. common assault, grievous bodily harm, harassment, kidnap, rape and murder.

When does Honour Based Abuse Occur?

HBV may occur when the perpetrator(s) perceive that a person (or persons) has shamed the family or community by breaking an honour code. The violence used can include planning, premeditation and family or community conspiracy; often the belief held is that the victim(s) is ‘deserving’ of the punishment.

Honour Based Abuse can often be a form of domestic and / or sexual violence. The Home Office definition of domestic violence and abuse (2013), which Honour Based Abuse is related to, now applies to young people aged 16 years and over. All offences against children and young people under 18 are Child Protection concerns. See <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/domestic-violence-and-abuse>

Honour/ Izzat

Honour Based Abuse is perpetrated for a number of reasons. These include:

- ‘Izzat’ (an Urdu word which means protecting family honour or reputation);
- To control un-wanted behaviour and sexuality (including perceived promiscuity or being lesbian, gay, bisexual or Transgender);
- As a response to family, community or peer group pressure;
- Strengthening family links;

- Protecting perceived cultural and/or religious ideals (misguided or dated);
- Retaining wealth, property or land within the family;
- Preventing unsuitable relationships;
- Assisting claims for residence and citizenship in the UK;
- Perceived immoral behaviour including:
- Inappropriate make-up or dress;
- Possession and / or use of a mobile telephone;
- Kissing or showing other forms of intimacy in public;
- Rejecting a forced marriage;
- Being a victim of rape or other serious sexual assault;
- Inter-faith relationships;
- Seeking a divorce.

This could occur through:

- Defying parental authority;
- Becoming 'westernised' in style of clothes, make-up, behaviour and attitudes;
- Women having sex, relationships and/or pregnancy outside of marriage;
- Use of drugs; alcohol, or cigarettes;
- Gossip – family honour can be damaged by rumour and gossip that is not true but believed to be true by other members of the community;
- Leaving a spouse or seeking a divorce;
- Having a boyfriend / girlfriend; and
- Wishing to marry outside of faith.

Children and young people can be victims of Honour Based Abuse either directly or indirectly. The consequences for the victim include:

- Ostracism / disownment of the victim by their family and community;
- Physical / emotional abuse of the victim by family members, spouse and in laws;
- Restriction of freedom/loss of independence for the victim;
- Isolation from their family and community, but also being on 'house arrest' or kept from seeing friends;
- Internalisation of guilt / shame by the victim and feeling conflicted for not wanting the marriage but also not wanting to hurt or shame their family;
- Forced marriage (see Forced Marriage Procedure)
- Murder;
- Being sent (or threatened) to live elsewhere, either in the UK or overseas.

Notions of honour framed within culture and religion are used for justification of primarily (but not always) male violence against women and children. Honour Based Abuse involving children means that they are at significant risk of actual physical harm, neglect and emotional harm through the threat of, or witnessing violence. Families may feel shame long after the incident that brought about 'dishonour' occurred; **therefore the risk of serious harm to a child can persist.**

Crimes committed in the name of 'honour' include threatening behaviour, violence or abuse (psychological, physical, sexual, financial or emotional). As specific offences they may include common assault, inflicting Grievous Bodily Harm, harassment, kidnap, rape, threats to kill or murder. Additionally, honour based crimes could include:

- Attempted murder;
- Manslaughter;
- Procuring an abortion;
- Encouraging or assisting suicide;
- Conspiracy to murder;
- Conspiracy to commit a variety of assaults.

Impact on Children and Young People

Isolation is one of the biggest problems facing those trapped in, or under threat of violence. Many children or young people who face violence will not even discuss their worries with their friends for fear their families may find out.

Children and young people in this situation can display a wide range of behaviours indicative to any level of abuse and neglect. Practitioners should make themselves aware of the potential indicators related to experiencing Honour Based Abuse directly or indirectly. These include:

- Children may go missing (from home and school) in an attempt to keep themselves safe;
- Children may be restricted in their movements and overly supervised;
- Children might not have access to the internet, mobile phones, and their passport or family members;
- Children might be forced to marry, or forced to live elsewhere;
- Being withdrawn from education by those with Parental Responsibility and /or requests for extended leave;
- Unreasonable financial control, for example confiscation of wages/income.

Responding to Honour Based Abuse or the threat of Honour Based Abuse

Honour Based Abuse places young people and vulnerable adults at risk of possible physical and emotional harm. Some cases have resulted in the child or young person being murdered. Therefore Honour Based Abuse should be considered as a potential risk factor in any Assessment. All agencies need to be aware of Honour Based Abuse, its likely consequences and the possibility of dealing with the issue.

It is important that staff of all agencies understand the difficulties that children and young people face when living with the threat or consequences of Honour Based Abuse. In addition, they are likely to have no experience of living outside the family and may face rejection and harassment by the family and by the community.

Information or a referral about Honour Based Abuse may be received from the child or young person, from a friend or relative, or from a statutory, voluntary or faith organisation.

What to do

If a child tells a practitioner about Honour Based Abuse in respect of themselves or another family member, the practitioner should:

- See the child alone in a safe and private place to obtain their wishes, views and feelings and explain confidentiality fully, including the need to share;
- Record carefully; caution is required about how information is recorded and shielded within the organisation to ensure the child's safety; and
- Should NOT make contact with the family or community leaders, and should not under any circumstances, tell the family or their social network about what the child has said, attempt mediation or use members of the community to interpret on behalf of the child;
- If a child tells a practitioner about honour based abuse, a referral must be made to Children's Social Care in line with the ERSCB Inter-agency Safeguarding Procedures: <http://www.erscb.org.uk/professionals-and-volunteers/procedures-and-guidance/> Children's social Care in partnership with the Police will undertake a Section 47 Enquiry.

If you suspect a child or young person is at immediate risk, professionals should report it to Police, including dialling 999 if appropriate.

The Role of the Police

Although there is no specific criminal offence of "Honour Based Abuse" perpetrators may be prosecuted for a variety of offences, such as force marriage, threatening behaviour, conspiracy, assault, kidnap, abduction, rape and murder.

If the person is under 18, or is an adult identified as at risk the Police will:

- Investigate in line with the National College of Policing Approved Professional Practice guidance: <https://www.app.college.police.uk/app-content/major-investigation-and-public-protection/forced-marriage-and-honour-based-violence/?s=honor+based+abuse+approved+professional+practice>
- Inform Children's / Adults Social Care Services;
- Check if the child is the subject of a Child Protection Plan;
- Ensure that an Appropriate Adult and if needed an accredited interpreter is in attendance at all interviews - members of the extended family or community leaders are **not** appropriate in this situation.

The Role of Children's Social Care

Honour Based Abuse places a child / young person at risk of Significant Harm therefore should initially be investigated under Section 47 Enquiries.

When a referral has been received by Children's Social Care Services in relation a child or young person who is suffering or likely to suffer Honour Based Abuse a Strategy Discussion/Meeting must be convened within two working days. This should be chaired by a Team Manager from Children's Social Care Services, and involve Police and health representatives at a minimum, with other professionals from education and specialist based organisations invited. Consideration should also be given to inviting a Legal Advisor.

The strategy meeting / discussion should recognise the Police responsibility to initiate and undertake a criminal investigation as appropriate.

When assessing the risk of harm, a full family history must be taken to consider any abuse or threat of abuse of any other member of the family as well as a secret boy or girlfriend, pregnancy and self-harming.

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 child from abuse / disappearance. Following the strategy meeting / discussion, Children's Social Care Services and the Police should arrange to see the child on his / her own in a secure and private place. Consideration should be given to the professionals allocated to talk with the child, to ensure the child is untroubled when speaking to them.

When talking to the child, an approved and trained interpreter must be used in if the preferred language of the child / young person is not English. Care must be taken when identifying an appropriate interpreter to ensure the safety of the child or young person. Children's Social Care Services must:

- Give the child or young person advice on personal safety;
- Consider the possible need for immediate protection and placement away from the family;
- Discuss with Police any concerns for the safety of any other child or young person and any suspicion that a crime may have been committed.

It should be noted that Honour Based Abuse does not stand alone; it is inexorably linked with domestic abuse and consequently any planning and / or interventions should also fit with existing domestic abuse guidance, policy and procedures.

REMEMBER - Cases involving suspicions of Honour Based Abuse are NOT suitable for a Family Group Conference or a mediation process because of the risk of physical danger and emotional manipulation which the child or young person may experience as a result. Where an Initial Child Protection Conference is convened, great care must be taken to manage information about the whereabouts of the child or young person. The social worker and his / her manager must discuss the arrangements with the Conference Chair and consider whether the family should be present or not, or at the same time as the child or young person, as threats may be made.

Information, Record Keeping and Confidentiality

It is important for Children's Social Care Practitioners to obtain as much information as possible when a child or young person is first referred, as there may not be another opportunity. A record should be taken of the child or young person's immediate personal details and the family details including any information about the need for an interpreter.

Full details of the allegation should be recorded, including details of any threats or hostile actions against the child or young person.

A record should also be made of the details of the person making the initial referral, including contact details and their relationship to the child or young person.

Concerns about acts of violence should not be discussed with the child or young person's family or friends, and / or information should not be shared with other agencies without the express consent of the child or young person, unless it is necessary to protect the child or young person.

The worker must think very carefully about the need to disclose information and to whom it may be disclosed. Disclosure may lead to the child or young person's estrangement from the family and increase the likelihood of the child or young person suffering Significant Harm. If approached, parents may deny that the child or young person is at threat of violence, move the child or young person, expedite any travel arrangements and bring forward any perpetration of violence.

All agencies should take particular care to ensure that members of their staff do not:

- Use family members, friends, neighbours or community leaders as interpreters;
- Send the child or young person back to the family home against their wishes;
- Approach the child or young person's family or friends or others within the child or young person's community without the child or young person's explicit consent;
- Notify the family in advance of enquiries;
- Attempt to mediate between the child or young person and the family except at the child or young person's specific request;
- Breach the child or young person's confidentiality, unless this is necessary to ensure their safety.

When a referral is received, the child or young person should be interviewed in a secure and private place, on her or his own. The child or young person may want to be seen by a person of the same gender, and may also want to talk to someone from her or his own community - or to avoid talking to someone from her or his own community.

When arranging to see the child or young person, thought should be given to where and when this should happen, for example, if the child or young person is coming to an office, consider arranging the appointment out of hours to minimise risks to the safety of the child or young person.

The person interviewing the child or young person should:

- Discuss the range of options available to her or him and the possible consequences of each course of action;
- Signpost her or him to an appropriate adviser and / or make the child or young person aware of the right to seek legal advice and representation;
- Develop a "cover story" - a plausible alternative reason for the child or young person to be at the social work office, police station etc, in case she / he is seen there.

At all times confidentiality and discretion are vitally important.

Information about the child or young person and her / his whereabouts must be kept confidential. Access should preferably be restricted to named members of staff. This includes both paper-based and computer records.

Before making any enquiries, the worker should consider whether there is a risk that the family will become aware that these enquiries are being made.

When considering disclosure of confidential information to another person or agency, the child or young person should be informed, the reasons explained, and their consent sought as appropriate. Workers should be aware that some families will be intent on finding the child or young person and often private investigators have been used to do this. Many times the family may approach a third party such as a local Councillor or MP with an apparently reasonable request to contact the child or young person; do not provide information without checking with a manager and the child or young person first.

Support and Advice for Children and Young People

For children and young people who stay at home they should be offered support regarding safety / escape plans and the option to deposit their DNA, passport number, finger prints and photograph with the Police. It is essential to devise a way of contacting them discreetly without placing them at increased risk of harm. This should include a code word to ensure that contact has been made with the right person. Consideration should also be given to the possibility that written communications including emails may be intercepted and that telephone communications may be detected, for example, through the phone bill.

A child or young person who wishes to leave the family home will need a leaving strategy. This will include issues such as - Where could they go in an emergency? If the child or young person is in immediate danger, it may be necessary to consider admission to local authority accommodation, an Emergency Protection Order or Police Protection. In this situation it is not appropriate to rely on the extended family to provide a place of safety unless the child or young person can identify a relative in whom they have absolute trust. It may be necessary to place the child or young person outside her or his community and in a different local authority area.

If the child or young person wishes to remain in the family home A safety plan should be put in place with the child or young person; looking at how to raise the alarm if there are concerns about increased risk to safety; having access to emergency money; having an escape plan.

A child or young person may be taken overseas to protect honour or Izzat and they may be forced to marry. Any such concerns should be taken seriously, but the arrangement of an extended holiday should not be assumed to imply violence or that a forced marriage is planned. As much of the following information as possible should be gathered so that action can be taken, if necessary:

- Any addresses where the child or young person may be staying while overseas;
- Potential spouse's name;
- Date of proposed wedding;
- Addresses of extended family members in UK and overseas;
- Details of travel plans, including estimated return date, and people likely to accompany the child or young person.
- Note of their passport number and the date and place of issue;
- Give the child or young person the address and phone number of the British Embassy in the country to which they are travelling;
- Establish a safe means to make contact with the child or young person, e.g. a mobile phone that will work overseas;
- Encourage the child or young person to memorise at least one telephone number and e-mail address;

- Ask the child or young person for details of a trusted person in the UK with whom they will keep in contact whilst overseas, who will act on their behalf and who can be approached if they do not return;
- Take a written statement from the child or young person that they want the social worker (or another person) to act on their behalf if they do not return by a certain date;
- Ask the child or young person to make contact without fail on their return;
- Record some information that only the child or young person will know this may help later in confirming their identity.

If there is a clear risk of violence or forced marriage and the risk is imminent, it may be necessary to take emergency action to remove the child or young person from home in order to protect them and prevent the travel abroad.

Children or young people may run away from home to escape the threat of violence face particular difficulties. Agencies may be criticised for providing support and protection to a child or young person who has run away from home, and for failing to share information about the child or young person's whereabouts with the family. The first consideration must be for the child or young person's safety and welfare.

Any child or young person who has run away from home should be spoken to on their own to establish why they ran away. Issues related to Honour Based Abuse may come to light at this time. If the child or young person is at risk of violence, it may not be in their best interests to disclose any information to their family, friends, or members of their community until their continued safety has been secured.

Responding to Honour Based Abuse or threat of Honour Based Abuse

Honour Based Abuse places young people and vulnerable adults at risk of possible physical and emotional harm. Some cases have resulted in the child or young person being murdered. Therefore Honour Based Abuse should be considered as a potential risk factor in any Assessment. All agencies need to be aware of Honour Based Abuse, its likely consequences and the possibility of dealing with the issue.

It is important that staff of all agencies understand the difficulties that children and young people face when living with the threat or consequences of Honour Based Violence. In addition, they are likely to have no experience of living outside the family and may face rejection and harassment by the family and by the community.

Information or a referral about Honour Based Abuse may be received from the child or young person, from a friend or relative, or from a statutory, voluntary or faith organisation.

4. FORCED MARRIAGE

Guidance:

- [Honour based Abuse, Forced Marriage and Female Genital Mutilation: a Policing Strategy](#)
- [GOV.UK guidance on forced marriage](#)
- [HM Government \(2014\) The Right to Choose: Multi-agency statutory guidance for dealing with forced marriage](#)
- [HM Government \(2014\) Multi-agency practice guidelines: Handling Cases of Forced Marriage.](#)
- In addition to the above, practitioners might find CPS [\(2014\) Honour Based Violence and Forced Marriage: Guidance on Identifying and Flagging cases](#) useful.

Definitions:

A clear distinction must be made between a forced marriage and an arranged marriage. **A forced marriage is a marriage conducted without the full consent of both parties and where pressure is a factor.** Differences between forced and arranged marriages are outlined below:

- In arranged marriages the families of both spouses take a leading role in the arrangements but the choice of whether or not to accept them remains with the young people;
- In forced marriage one or both of the spouses do not consent and some element of pressure is involved. This can include physical and/or emotional strain;
- Forced marriage is a human rights abuse and it falls within the Crown Prosecution Service's definition of domestic abuse. It can also constitute both child abuse and sexual abuse;
- Forced marriage is not a private, personal, domestic, family, religious or cultural issue and fears that it is racist or culturally insensitive to condemn forced marriage are unsupported.

In 2004, the legal definition of domestic abuse was extended to include acts perpetrated by extended family as well as intimate partners. Consequently, acts such as forced marriage and other so called 'honour' crimes" which can include abduction and murder can now come under the definition of domestic abuse.

The scope of the problem:

Some 250 cases are reported to the Foreign and Commonwealth Office each year with many others going unreported. Male victims account for 15% of cases. Cases may occur at any age, with the majority being aged 15-24 and involving South Asian families. Some cases occur in the UK without any overseas element.

Motives Promoting Forced Marriage:

Parents who force their children to marry often justify their behaviour as protecting their children, building stronger families, and preserving cultural or religious traditions. They do not see anything wrong in their actions. Forced marriage cannot be justified on religious grounds; every major faith condemns it and freely given consent is a requirement of Christian, Jewish, Hindu, Muslim and Sikh marriages. Often parents believe that they are upholding the cultural traditions of their home country, when in fact practices and values there have changed. Some parents come under significant pressure from their extended families to get their children married. In some instances, an agreement may have been made about marriage when a child is in their infancy. Some of the key motives that have been identified are:

- Controlling unwanted behaviour and sexuality (including perceived promiscuity, or being gay, lesbian, bisexual or transgender) - particularly the behaviour and sexuality of women;
- Protecting 'family 'honour';
- Responding to peer group or family pressure;
- Attempting to strengthen family links;
- Ensuring land, property and wealth remain within the family;
- Protecting perceived cultural ideals (which can often be misguided or out of date);
- Protecting perceived religious ideals which are misguided;
- Preventing 'unsuitable' relationships, e.g. outside the ethnic, cultural, religious or caste group;
- Assisting claims for residence and citizenship;
- Fulfilling long-standing family commitments.
- The Legal Position

The Marriage Act 1949 and the Matrimonial Causes Act 1973 govern the law on marriage in England and Wales. The minimum age at which a person is able to consent to marriage is 16; a person between the ages of 16 and 18 may not marry without parental consent (unless the young person is a widow/widower). Section 12c of the Matrimonial Causes Act 1973 states that a marriage shall be voidable if "either party to the marriage did not reasonably consent to it, whether in consequence of pressure, mistake, unsoundness of mind or otherwise". Voidable means the marriage is valid until it

is challenged by one of the parties, at which time the court can award a decree of nullity cancelling the marriage.

Anyone threatened with forced marriage or forced to marry against their will can apply for a Forced Marriage Protection Order. Such an order can be granted to prevent a marriage occurring or, where a forced marriage has already taken place, to offer protective measures. Orders may contain prohibitions (e.g. to stop someone from being taken abroad), restrictions (e.g. to hand over all passports and birth certificates and not to apply for a new passport), requirements (e.g. to reveal the whereabouts of a person or to enable a person to return to the UK within a given timescale) or such other terms as the court thinks appropriate to stop or change the conduct of those who would force the victim into marriage. A power of arrest may be added where violence is threatened.

A Forced Marriage Protection Order is a significant step in the management of the case and can significantly raise the risk. Decisions about such orders are to be made with multi agency consultation.

Fifteen County Courts have been designated to deal with applications, including the Leeds Combined Court.

Third parties such as relatives, friends, voluntary workers and police officers can apply for a protection order with the leave of the Court. Since 1 November 2009, local authorities can apply for a protection order for a vulnerable adult or child without the leave of the court.

For further advice and information about how to make such an application, see the guidance for local authorities on applying for [Forced Marriage Protection Orders, published by the Ministry of Justice in November 2009](#) and [HM Courts & Tribunals Service, Forced marriage Protection orders: How can they protect me? \(FL 702\)](#).

The Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 made it a criminal offence, with effect from 16 June 2014, to force someone to marry. This includes:

- Taking someone overseas to force them to marry (whether or not the forced marriage takes place);
- Marrying someone who lacks the mental Capacity to consent to the marriage (whether they're pressured to or not).

Breaching a Forced Marriage Protection Order is also now a criminal offence. The civil remedy of obtaining a Forced Marriage Protection Order through the family courts, as set out above, continues to exist alongside the criminal offence, so victims can choose how they wish to be assisted.

Forcing someone to marry can result in a sentence of up to 7 years in prison.

Disobeying a Forced Marriage Protection Order can result in a sentence of up to 5 years in prison.

Warning Signs:

The following factors collectively or individually may be an indication that a young person fears they may be forced to marry or that a forced marriage has already taken place. However it is important not to assume that because a young person is facing forced marriage simply on the basis that they present with one or more of these signs. It is important for Social Workers and other professionals working with young people to assess the young person's situation using the Framework for the assessment of Children in Need and their families:

Education	Employment
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Truancy;• Low motivation;• Poor exam results;• Withdrawal from School.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Poor performance/attendance;• Limited career choices;• Unreasonable financial control.

Family History	Health
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Siblings forces to marry; • Family disputes; • Domestic abuse; • Running away; • Unreasonable restrictions. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Self-Harm; • Attempted suicide; • Eating disorders; • Depression; • Isolation.

What to do:

Forced marriage places adults at Risk and children at risk of rape and possible physical harm. Some cases have resulted in the reluctant spouse being murdered. Where an allegation of forced marriage or intended forced marriage is raised, the following steps should be taken:

- See the young person on their own in a secure and private place;
- Explain all the options to the young person and recognise and respect their wishes. If the young person does not want children's social care to intervene, the professional will need to consider whether the young person's wishes should be respected or whether the young person's safety requires that further action be taken. This decision must be taken in consultation with a named or designated professional/ Child protection Advisor for the organization. Decisions not to make a referral must be recorded;
- Following agreement with the young person, advise from the named child protection advisor, as appropriate, make a referral to children's social care using the ERSCB Inter-agency Safeguarding Procedures <http://www.erscb.org.uk/professionals-and-volunteers/procedures-and-guidance/>

The Role of Children's Social Care

Children's Social care should initiate a strategy discussion with the Police under child protection procedures and the need for immediate protection and placement away from the family considered; A referral to the Police must be made if there is any suspicion that a crime has been committed; Children's Social Care must involve the young person in all discussions and provide details of the action which agencies will undertake.

The Role of the Police

Perpetrators may be prosecuted for a variety of offences, such as force marriage, threatening behaviour, conspiracy, assault, kidnap, abduction, rape and murder. If the person is under 18, or is an adult identified as at risk the Police will investigate in line with the National College of Policing Approved Professional Practice guidance: <https://www.app.college.police.uk/app-content/major-investigation-and-public-protection/forced-marriage-and-honour-based-violence/?s=honor+based+abuse+approved+professional+practice>

What not to do:

Do not:

- Treat such allegations merely as a domestic issue and send the young person back to the family home as part of routine child protection procedures;
- Ignore what the young person has told you or dismiss out of hand the need for immediate protection;
- Approach the young person's family, friends or those people with influence within the community, without the express consent of the young person, as this will alert them to your enquiries;
- Contact the family in advance of any enquiries, either by telephone or letter;
- Breach confidentiality except where necessary in order to ensure the young person's safety.
- Do not attempt to be a go-between. Mediation, reconciliation and family counselling as a response to forced marriage can be extremely dangerous. Some cases have resulted in the reluctant spouse being murdered.
-

At all times confidentiality and discretion are vitally important.

Information Requirements:

Subject to the need for safety and confidentiality in making enquiries, the following information and documentation should be acquired. It is important to get as much information as possible when a case is first reported, as there may not be another opportunity for the individual reporting to make contact. The case may be reported by a third party or the young person under threat. Whoever reports the case, you should:

- Obtain details of the individual making the report, their contact details, and their relationship with the young person;
- Obtain details of the young person under threat including:
 - Date of report;
 - Name of individual under threat;
 - Nationality;
 - Age;
 - Date and place of birth;
 - Passport details;
 - School details;
 - Employment details;
 - Full details of the allegation;
 - Name and address of parents;
- Obtain a list from the young person under threat of all those friends and family who can be trusted;
- Establish a code word to ensure you are speaking to the right person;
- Establish a way of contacting them discreetly in the future that will not put them at risk of harm;
- Record details about any threats or hostile actions against the young person, whether reported by the victim or a third party;
- Obtain a recent photograph and other identifying documents. Document any other distinguishing features such as birthmarks and tattoos etc.;
- Establish the nature and level of risk to the safety of the individual (e.g. are they pregnant, do they have a secret boyfriend/girlfriend, are they self-harming, are they already secretly married);
- Establish if there are any other family members at risk of forced marriage or if there is a family history of forced marriage and abuse.

The case should be reported to the Foreign and Commonwealth Office who will offer further advice and assistance. This is possible even in circumstances where the young person is already overseas or the marriage has already taken place.

5. FURTHER ADVICE

The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO)
Community Liaison Unit (CLU)
G55 Old Admiralty Building
Whitehall SW1A 2PA
020 7008 0135
020 7009 0230
020 7008 8708 (all office hours 0900-1730)
020 7008 1500 (out of hours/emergency)
Email: clu@fco.gov.uk (020 7008 8706/0230/0135)

The Forced Marriage Unit can be contacted for advice and support on:

020 7008 0151 (Monday-Friday 09.00 - 1700)
020 7008 1500 (Out of Hours ask for the Global Response Centre)
Email: fm@fco.gov.uk

Website: <https://www.gov.uk/stop-forced-marriage>

Metropolitan Police – Honour Based Violence

https://safe.met.police.uk/crimes_of_honour/get_the_facts.html

Honour Based Abuse Awareness Network

<http://hbv-awareness.com/honour-based-violence/>

Crown Prosecution Service Guidance

<https://www.cps.gov.uk/legal-guidance/honour-based-violence-and-forced-marriage>

Karma Nirvana – supporting victims of Honour Based Abuse Website

<http://www.karmanirvana.org.uk/>

6. INFORMATION, TRAINING AND EDUCATION

The Charity Karma Nirvana provides further information, training and education regarding this form of crime. The organization also provides support to victims.

<http://www.karmanirvana.org.uk/>

7. RESEARCH

The Honour Based AbuseAwareness Network (HBVAN) has an online library of research and reports explaining this form of violence and many other free resources, including training and educational materials. **<http://hbv-awareness.com/>**