



Honour Based Violence

What is it?

Honour Based Violence (HBV) is a violent crime or incident which may have been committed to protect or defend 'honour' also known as 'izzat' of the family or community.

This code is set, in the main, by male relatives however some women also support this practice. It is in reference to women who do not abide by the rules of the culture and traditions. Infringements of the rules may include women having a boyfriend, wearing make-up, interfaith relationships, rejecting a forced marriage, wearing clothes or taking part in activities that might not be considered traditional within the culture, pregnancy outside of marriage; seeking a divorce. Punishments for 'breaking' these rules can include abuse such as; psychological, physical, sexual or emotional, rape, kidnapping, false imprisonment, assault, harassment, forced abortion and withholding financial support. In extreme cases the violence can include planning, premeditation and family /community conspiracy to murder; often the belief held is that the victim(s) is 'deserving' of the punishment.

What do practitioners do in Bolton?

Bolton offers HBV and forced marriage training to multi-agency practitioners; the training addresses issues of potential signs of HBV. Some of the signs include children missing (from home and school) in an attempt to keep themselves safe; children may self-harm, appear depressed, angry and / or desperate; they may be restricted in their movements and

overly supervised; they might not have access to the internet, mobile phones, their passport or family members and / or children might be forced to marry or forced to live elsewhere.

In Bolton, if a child tells a practitioner about Honour Based Violence in respect of themselves or another family member, a referral is made to the Children's Services Multi-agency Screening and Safeguarding Service (MASSS) Team who, in consultation with legal and in partnership with the Police, undertakes a strategy meeting as soon as possible followed by a Section 47 Enquiry (safeguarding). The recommendations of the strategy meeting will address placement and safety issues of the child and once these have been considered the social worker will see the child alone in a safe and private place to obtain their wishes, views and feelings. Issues of confidentiality will be explained fully, including the need to share information and who with.

Bolton is very careful about how information is recorded and shielded within the organisation to ensure the child's safety; practitioners in Bolton do not make contact with the family or community leaders, and do not tell the family about what the child has said or attempt any form of mediation or use members of the community to interpret on behalf of the child. Following the initial enquiries, if the concerns have been substantiated, the Social Worker will complete a comprehensive assessment (known as Child and Family Assessment) of the family to ensure, if required, that any other children are also safeguarded.

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5 Minute Facts

HBV, the Law and police protection:

The Home Office definition of domestic abuse (2013), which Honour Based Violence is related to, now applies to young people aged 16 years and over.

Offences of Honour Based Violence are prosecuted under the specific offence committed e.g. common assault, grievous bodily harm, harassment, kidnap, rape and murder.

The police take HBV seriously and have specially trained officers whose responsibility it is to record and investigate all instances of Honour Based Violence, even in cases where there is only a small amount of information or when a victim has not reported it themselves.

Key contacts and for more information...

Bolton MASSS Team

Tel: **01204 331500**

Email: GSMR&A@bolton.gcsx.gov.uk

Bolton Emergency Duty Team (EDT)

Tel: **01204 337777**

Or alternatively discuss your concerns with:

NSPPC

Freephone: **0808 800 5000**

Email: help@nspcc.org.uk

Text: **88858**

If you are a child or young person and need to talk to someone you can contact Childline on **Freephone 08001111** or visit [Childline](#).

Further information can be obtained from: Crown Prosecution Service webpage on Honour Based Violence and Forced Marriage www.cps.gov.uk/legal/h_to_k/honour_based_violence_and_forced_marriage/

Karma Nirvana webpage on honour crimes and forced marriages www.karmanirvana.org.uk

Forced Marriage Unit

Tel: **020 7008 0151**

All the local info I need is just a **click away!**



Bolton
Council