



Harmful Practices 2021



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Harmful Practices 2021

Introduction

The Equality and Inclusion Partnership (EQuIP) is a Warwickshire-wide charitable organisation with a vision of a place where everyone embraces difference and diversity, ensures opportunity, eradicates inequality of treatment and operates in a fair environment for all.

EQuIP works towards elimination of discrimination on the grounds of age, disability, sex, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief and sexual orientation.

Culturally and Religiously appropriate Domestic Violence Services

The need to address some of the community perceptions around harmful practices was identified. EQuIP engaged with community and faith groups to discuss harmful practices and to find a way in which these issues can be raised with their groups or congregation. This would enable them to adopt a zero tolerance to harmful practices and that no religion or culture should condone violence against women.

The involvement of faith and community leaders across Warwickshire ensured that the information is cascaded through communities, via a trusted person.

What are Harmful Practices?

Harmful practices are forms of violence or abuse that are presented as acceptable cultural practices. Girls and women are most often affected by them, although males can also be vulnerable. Harmful practices reflect an underlying gender discrimination and are therefore closely linked to other forms of violence that have a majority of female victims, such as domestic abuse/violence.

The use of harmful practices is intended to control the victim through controlling, coercive and/or threatening behaviour. This can include psychological, physical, sexual, financial, and emotional abuse.



Harmful practices include (but are not limited to):

- forced marriage
- 'honour' based violence
- female genital mutilation (FGM)

These practices are used to control behaviour to protect perceived cultural and religious beliefs and can occur when it is believed that shame or dishonour has been brought against a family or community.

Examples of supposed shameful behaviour include:

- sexual orientation
- wearing make-up or 'unacceptable' clothing
- having a relationship outside of the community
- not obeying family/community rules
- seeking a divorce

As well as causing severe physical and psychological impact, the use of harmful practices can result in isolation, future health issues, restricted career opportunities, and financial dependency. It is extremely difficult to try and challenge beliefs and practices which are deeply embedded within cultures, but no culture, tradition or religion should be used to justify a practice that harms the individual. These practices are abuse and against human rights.

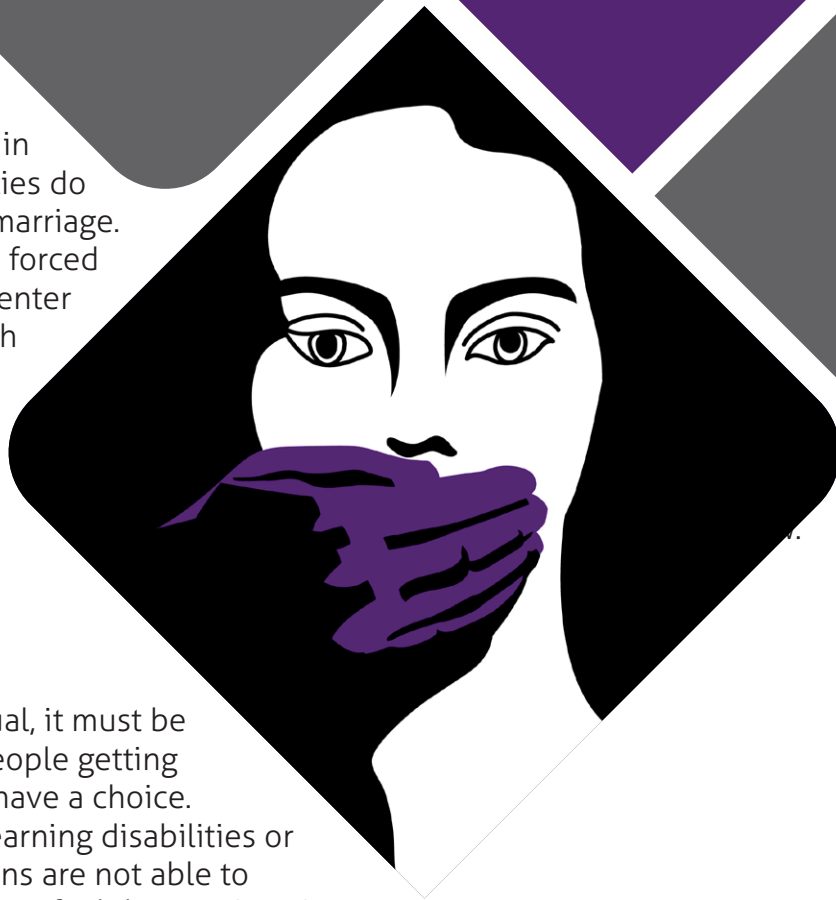
<https://www.saverauk.co.uk/information-and-advice/resources/fact-sheets/harmful-practices/>

What is a Forced Marriage?

'Any person may be forced into marriage – this includes people of all ages, genders, ethnicities and religions.'

Forced marriage is a marriage in which one or more of the parties do not or cannot consent to the marriage. A marriage can also become a forced marriage even if both parties enter with full consent if one or both are later forced to stay in the marriage against their will.

Forcing someone to marry isn't always physical



What is consent?

For a marriage to be consensual, it must be entered into freely by both people getting married. You should feel you have a choice. Legally, people with certain learning disabilities or severe mental health conditions are not able to consent to marriage, even if they feel the marriage is what they want.

What is an arranged marriage?

An arranged marriage is not the same as a forced marriage. In an arranged marriage, the families take a leading role in choosing the marriage partner, but both individuals are free to choose whether they want to enter into the marriage. If you consent to marry, but later change your mind – yet still feel that you will be required to go ahead with the marriage – that is a forced marriage too.

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/879927/Forced_Marriage-_survivor_s_handbook.pdf

(copy and paste this link into your browser to access this PDF booklet)

What is Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)?

FGM involves the partial or total removal of the external female genitalia, or other damage to the genital organs, for supposed cultural, religious or non-medical reasons. FGM, also known as female circumcision (cutting or sunna) can affect females from birth to pregnancy. It inflicts severe physical and psychological damage which can last a lifetime. While there is some intelligence to suggest that FGM is being physically performed *in the UK, most victims are usually taken abroad, commonly on flights in the holiday periods of Easter, summer, and Christmas.



FGM is a form of child abuse. It's dangerous and a criminal offence in the UK. We know:

- There are no medical reasons to carry out FGM.
- It's often performed by someone with no medical training, using instruments such as knives, scalpels, scissors, glass or razor blades.
- Children are rarely given anaesthetic or antiseptic treatment and are often forcibly restrained.
- It's used to control female sexuality and can cause long lasting damage to physical and emotional health.

FGM can happen at different times in a girl or woman's life, including:

- When a baby is new-born
- During childhood or as a teenager
- Just before marriage
- During pregnancy

FGM Warning Signs:

Education

- Days off school
- Not participating in PE
- Broken limbs
- Wearing tight clothing
- In pain/restricted movement
- Change in behaviour/demeanour
- Parents originate from an FGM practicing country (further information available on the Unicef website).

Effects of FGM

There are no health benefits to FGM. It can cause serious harm, including:

- Severe and / or constant pain and shock
- Infections, such as tetanus, HIV and hepatitis B and C
- Pain or difficulty having sex.
- Acute & chronic pelvic infections leading to infertility.
- Bleeding, cysts and abscesses.
- Difficulties urinating, incontinence & chronic urinary tract infections leading to renal problems or renal failure.
- Organ damage.
- Problems during pregnancy and childbirth, which can be life threatening for the mother and baby.
- Mental health problems, such as depression, flashbacks and self-harm.
- Death from blood loss or infections.
- Injury to adjacent tissue.
- Fracture or dislocation to limbs as a result of restraint.
- Difficulties with menstruation.
- Chronic scar formations.
- Death

<https://safeinwarwickshire.com/female-genital-mutilation/>

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/what-is-child-abuse/types-of-abuse/female-genital-mutilation-fgm/#signs>



**STOP
FGM**

What is Honour Based Violence (HBV)?

It is a crime or incident which has, or may have been, committed to protect or defend the honour of the family and/or community. HBV has the potential to be both a domestic abuse and child abuse concern. There are specific behaviours, attitudes and actions that may constitute dishonour and are wide ranging. Individuals, families and communities may take drastic steps to preserve, protect or avenge their honour which can lead to substantial human rights abuses.



What forms of Honour Based Violence are there?

Honour based violence takes many different forms. Most commonly, a girl or woman is abused, disowned by her family or forced to have an abortion. Women and girls are the most common victims of honour-based violence. However, men and boys can be victims, too.

Honour-based violence includes:

- Physical abuse (kicking and beating).
- Psychological pressure (strict monitoring, humiliation, threats).
- forced marriage.
- Abandonment (leaving someone in their country of origin or sending them back there).
- Forced suicide.
- Honour killing (murder).

Motives for Honour Based Violence

The most common reasons for committing honour-based violence are:

- Conflicts of honour, for example concerning an inheritance.
- Loss of virginity outside marriage.
- An extramarital affair.
- Rebellion against traditional forms of behaviour, dress or occupation.
- Insulting a family member.
- Disagree with a forced marriage.
- Homosexuality.
- Refusing to take part in honour-based violence against another person.

<https://www.safeguardingwarwickshire.co.uk/safeguarding-children/i-work-with-children-and-young-people/20-safeguarding-children/i-work-with-children-young-people/162-harmful-practices-fgm-hbv-and-forced-marriage>

Help & Support

If you have experienced or know of someone who has experienced either, a forced marriage, female genital mutilation or honour-based violence, don't stay silent.

There is information available and organisations that can offer support and advice.

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All details are correct at the time of printing



Forced Marriage

Local Support Organisations – Forced Marriage

<p>The Police - If you are in immediate danger.</p> <hr/>	<p>☎ 999</p> <hr/>
<p>Refuge Domestic Violence Service Warwickshire provides support to women, men and children experiencing domestic violence in Warwickshire.</p> <hr/>	<p>☎ 0800 408 1552 (Monday-Friday 8:30am-8:30pm; Saturday 10am-4pm) www.refuge.org.uk/our-work/our-services/refuge-warwickshire-domestic-violence-service/ www.refuge.org.uk/our-work/forms-of-violence-and-abuse/forced-marriage/</p> <hr/>
<p>Safe in Warwickshire (Warwickshire County Council) For information, support, advice and resources</p> <hr/>	<p>☎ 01926 412338 https://safeinwarwickshire.com/forced-marriage/</p> <hr/>
<p>Warwickshire Safeguarding Children Information, resources and how to report</p> <hr/>	<p>Adults/Children's: ☎ 01926 410410 www.safeguardingwarwickshire.co.uk/safeguarding-children/i-work-with-children-and-young-people/20-safeguarding-children/i-work-with-children-young-people/162-harmful-practices-fgm-hbv-and-forced-marriage</p> <hr/>
<p>BRANCAB Provides advice and information in the Warwickshire area on benefits, housing etc.</p> <hr/>	<p>☎ 02476 494393 – Nuneaton ☎ 01788 566 238 – Rugby ☎ 0808 278 7826 – National Freephone Adviceline https://brancab.org.uk/default.aspx</p> <hr/>
<p>North Warwickshire CAB Advice and information on benefits, housing etc.</p> <hr/>	<p>☎ 01827 712 852 ☎ 0300 330 1193 – Adviceline http://nwcab.org.uk</p> <hr/>
<p>Citizens Advice South Warwickshire Advice and information on benefits, housing etc.</p> <hr/>	<p>☎ 0300 330 1183 www.casouthwarwickshire.org.uk</p> <hr/>
<p>Coventry & Warwickshire Mind Everyone with a mental health problem gets the support they need such as information on benefits etc.</p>	<p>☎ 02476 552847 https://cwmind.org.uk</p>

<p>Springfield Mind Mental health support if you are living in Stratford, Leamington and Warwick</p>	<p>☎ 01789 298615 Home https://springfieldmind.org.uk/</p>
<p>Coventry Haven Provide emotional and practical support</p>	<p>☎ 0800 111 4998 - #SafeToTalk helpline ☎ 02476 832 222 - Emergency Duty Team - outside of our office hours ☎ 0808 2000 247 - National Helpline (freephone 24 hr) if you are not in Coventry</p>

National Organisations - Forced Marriage

<p>The Forced Marriage Unit For advice and support to anyone who is in the UK, regardless of nationality. Overseas, our British Embassies, High Commissions and Consulates can provide consular assistance to British nationals (including dual nationals), and in certain circumstances to an EU or Commonwealth national</p>	<p>☎ 0207 008 0151 - Forced marriage helpline ☎ 0207 008 1500 - Global Response Centre (out of hours) www.gov.uk/guidance/forced-marriage</p>
<p>Karma Nirvana 'honour'-based abuse/forced marriage helpline</p>	<p>☎ 0800 5999 247 - Helpline - open 9am – 5pm, Monday to Friday. https://karmanirvana.org.uk</p>
<p>The Government Information, signs, resources and who to report to</p>	<p>https://forcedmarriage.campaign.gov.uk</p>
<p>Refuge Offers Information and support</p>	<p>☎ 0808 2000 247 - Freephone 24-Hour National Domestic Abuse Helpline www.refuge.org.uk/our-work/forms-of-violence-and-abuse/forced-marriage/</p>
<p>Halo Project - support victims of honour-based violence, forced marriages and FGM</p>	<p>☎ 01642 683 045 www.haloproject.org.uk</p>
<p>Bangladeshi Women's Centre Advice, information and support for Bangladeshi women including the issues of domestic abuse, forced marriage and 'honour' based violence.</p>	<p>☎ 0161 257 3867 www.mbwo.org.uk</p>

Independent Choices

(Greater Manchester Domestic Abuse Helpline
Iranian and Kurdish Women's Rights Organisation
(IKWRO)

Provides support and advice in Arabic, Kurdish, Turkish and Farsi to women, girls and men living in Britain, in areas including domestic abuse and 'honour' based issues.

Saheli

For emergency temporary refuge accommodation to South Asian women and their children who are fleeing domestic abuse situations.

Southall Black Sisters

For information, advice, advocacy, practical help, counselling, and support to black and minority women experiencing domestic abuse.

Henna Foundation

Their work involves supporting and seeking assistance to protect victims of 'honour' related crime, abuses & violence.

Men's Advice Line

Confidential helpline for men who experience violence from their partners and ex partners. They provide emotional support, practical advice and inform men of specialist services that can give them advice on legal, housing, child contact, mental health and other issues.

Galop, previously called Broken Rainbow

Support for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) people experiencing domestic violence.

Careline

This is a national confidential counselling line for children, young people and adults on any issue including family, marital and relationship problems, child abuse, rape and sexual assault, depression and anxiety.

Asian Child Protection Helpline

The free, 24-hour helpline provides information, advice and counselling to anyone concerned about a child at risk of abuse.

☎ **0161 636 7525** for advice and support
www.domesticabusehelpline.co.uk

☎ **0207 920 6460** Mon to Fri 9.30-5.30
IKWRO | Facebook

☎ **020 8571 9595** (10am-12.30pm and 1.30pm-4pm)
<https://southallblacksisters.org.uk>

☎ **02920 498600 / 496920** - Cardiff

☎ **0808 801 0327** (Mon-Fri 10am-1pm and 2pm-5pm)
<https://mensadviceline.org.uk>

0800 999 5428
www.galop.org.uk

0208 8514 1177

Bengali speaking advisor - ☎ **0800 096 7714**
Gujarati - ☎ **0800 096 7715** / Hindi - ☎ **0800 096 7716**
Punjabi - ☎ **0800 096 7717** / Urdu - ☎ **0800 096 7718**
English - ☎ **0800 096 7719** / ☎ **0808 800 5000**
(helpline) + ☎ **0800 056 0566** (text phone)

Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)

Local Organisations - FGM

<p>The Police - If you are in immediate danger.</p> <hr/> <p>Refuge Domestic Violence Service Warwickshire provides support to women, men and children experiencing domestic violence in Warwickshire.</p> <hr/> <p>Safe in Warwickshire (Warwickshire County Council) For information, support, advice and resources</p> <hr/> <p>Warwickshire Safeguarding Children Information, resources and how to report.</p> <hr/> <p>Coventry & Warwickshire Mind Everyone with a mental health problem gets the support they need such as information on benefits etc.</p> <hr/> <p>Springfield Mind Mental health support if you are living in Stratford, Leamington and Warwick</p> <hr/> <p>Coventry Haven Provide emotional and practical support</p> <hr/> <p>Coventry & Warwickshire CCG Information, how to report and referrals.</p>	<p>☎ 999</p> <hr/> <p>☎ 0800 408 1552 (Monday-Friday 8:30am-8:30pm; Saturday 10am-4pm) www.refuge.org.uk/our-work/our-services/refuge-warwickshire-domestic-violence-service/ www.refuge.org.uk/our-work/forms-of-violence-and-abuse/fgm/</p> <hr/> <p>☎ 01926 412338 https://safeinwarwickshire.com/female-genital-mutilation/</p> <hr/> <p>☎ 01926 410410 - Adults/Children www.safeguardingwarwickshire.co.uk/safeguarding-children/i-work-with-children-and-young-people/20-safeguarding-children/i-work-with-children-young-people/162-harmful-practices-fgm-hbv-and-forced-marriage</p> <hr/> <p>☎ 02476 552847 https://cwmind.org.uk/</p> <hr/> <p>☎ 01789 298615 Home https://springfieldmind.org.uk/</p> <hr/> <p>☎ 0800 111 4998 - #SafeToTalk helpline ☎ 02476 832 222 - Emergency Duty Team - outside of our office hours</p> <hr/> <p>0808 2000 247 - National Helpline (freephone 24 hr) if you are not in Coventry For advice - Referral and Assessment Service on ☎ 024 7678 8555 www.coventryrugbygateway.nhs.uk/pages/female-genital-mutilation/</p>
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National Organisations - FGM

<p>FORWARD (Foundation for Women's Health Research and Development) - African led women's rights organisation Offers guidance on emergency support and advice for women and girls affected by any form of violence.</p> <hr/>	<p>☎ 020 8960 4000 www.forwarduk.org.uk</p> <hr/>
<p>National FGM Centre Information, guidance & Resources</p> <hr/>	<p>☎ 0208 498 7137 http://nationalfgmcentre.org.uk/fgm/</p> <hr/>
<p>NSPCC Information, signs, effects and support info for parents</p> <hr/>	<p>☎ 0800 028 3550 www.nspcc.org.uk/what-is-child-abuse/types-of-abuse/female-genital-mutilation-fgm/</p> <hr/>
<p>Childline Offers advice, information and support for children and young people</p> <hr/>	<p>☎ 0800 1111 www.childline.org.uk/info-advice/bullying-abuse-safety/abuse-safety/female-circumcision-fgm-cutting/</p> <hr/>
<p>The Government FGM support information and documents</p> <hr/>	<p>https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/statement-opposing-female-genital-mutilation</p> <hr/>
<p>NHS England Information and support</p> <hr/>	<p>https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/female-genital-mutilation-fgm/</p> <hr/>
<p>Halo Project - support victims of honour-based violence, forced marriages and FGM</p> <hr/>	<p>☎ 01642 683 045 www.haloproject.org.uk</p> <hr/>
<p>True Honour Information and support</p> <hr/>	<p>☎ 07480 621711 www.truehonour.org.uk</p> <hr/>
<p>Royal College of Nursing</p>	<p>Assessment tools and guidance Domestic violence and abuse Royal College of Nursing https://www.rcn.org.uk/clinical-topics/female-genital-mutilation#:~:text=The%20RCN%20is%20actively%20engaged%20in%20promoting%20best,and%20women%20in%20some%20communities%20across%20the%20globe</p>

Honour Based Violence (HBV)

Local Organisations - HBV

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National Organisations - HBV

Karma Nirvana 'honour'-based abuse/forced marriage helpline

FORWARD (Foundation for Women's Health Research and Development) - African led women's rights organisation
Offers guidance on emergency support and advice for women and girls affected by any form of violence

Halo Project - support victims of honour-based violence, forced marriages and FGM

Bangladeshi Women's Centre
Advice, information and support for Bangladeshi women including the issues of domestic abuse, forced marriage and 'honour' based violence. Other areas covered include welfare rights, housing, health, education and training, employment and immigration and nationality

Independent Choices
(Greater Manchester Domestic Abuse Helpline)

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True Honour
Information and support

Saheli
For Asian women run by Asian women. Saheli provides emergency, temporary refuge accommodation to South Asian women and their children who are fleeing domestic abuse situations

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☎ **01642 683 045**
www.haloproject.org.uk

☎ **0161 257 3867**

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www.domesticabusehelpline.co.uk

☎ **02920 498600/496920** - Cardiff

☎ **0207 920 6460** Mon to Fri 9.30-5.30
IKWRO | Facebook

☎ **07480 621711**
www.truehonour.org.uk

☎ **0161 945 4187** Advice and support
<http://saheli.org.uk>

Southall Black Sisters

This is a resource centre offering information, advice, advocacy, practical help, counselling, and support to black and minority women experiencing domestic abuse.

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Bengali speaking advisor - ☎ **0800 096 7714**
Gujarati - ☎ **0800 096 7715** / Hindi - ☎ **0800 096 7716**
Punjabi - ☎ **0800 096 7717** / Urdu - ☎ **0800 096 7718**
English - ☎ **0800 096 7719** / ☎ **0808 800 5000**
(helpline) + 0800 056 0566 (text phone)

☎ **0800 999 5428**
www.galop.org.uk

☎ **0208 8514 1177**



Tel: 07377 431997

Email: advice@equipequality.org.uk

www.equipequality.org.uk

To sign up to our regular e-bulletins email: advice@equipequality.org.uk

Or follow us on social media:

f [@EquipEquality.org](https://www.facebook.com/EquipEquality.org) **t** [@EquipEquality1](https://twitter.com/EquipEquality1)