

FRÅN NEW SCOTLAND YARDS UNGDOMSSIDA:

SAFE och den sidans flik: ”honour based violence” Se vidare denna länk

What is honour based violence?

Honour based violence is a violent crime or incident which may have been committed to protect or defend the honour of the family or community.

It is often linked to family members or acquaintances who mistakenly believe someone has brought shame to their family or community by doing something that is not in keeping with the traditional beliefs of their culture. For example, honour based violence might be committed against people who:

- become involved with a boyfriend or girlfriend from a different culture or religion
- want to get out of an arranged marriage
- want to get out of a forced marriage
- wear clothes or take part in activities that might not be considered traditional within a particular culture

Women and girls are the most common victims of honour based violence however it can also affect men and boys. Crimes of ‘honour’ do not always include violence. Crimes committed in the name of ‘honour’ might include:

- domestic abuse
- sexual or psychological abuse
- forced marriage
- being taken and held against your will
- assault

A forced marriage is one that is carried out without the consent of both people. This is very different to an arranged marriage, which both people will have agreed to.

We take honour based crime very seriously and deal with each individual case sensitively and confidentially. We work to keep victims safe and prevent further crimes from happening. Our approach has meant that more people than ever are turning to us for help.

Things to know

- We, as the police, have made it a high priority to help communities fight back with specialist Community Safety Units to tackle both honour based violence and hate crime. They operate in each of the Metropolitan Police Service's 32 London boroughs
- More people than ever are reporting honour based violence. We take every reported incident very seriously and work to protect the safety and security of victims.

No instances of honour based violence are too minor to report to us. It affects the whole community, not just those involved or victimised directly.

If you have been a victim of honour based violence, or know someone else who has been affected by it, there's help and support available. Visit our [‘More help and advice’](#) page.

Have you experienced honour based violence?

If you think you're going to be directly targeted - especially with forced marriage or honour based violence - or if you have already been a victim, you may feel scared about seeking help. But there is help and support out there. **We take honour based violence very seriously**, taking great care to handle all cases with sensitivity and confidentiality to prevent further crimes from happening.

Tell someone:

- It might be very difficult to talk to someone in your own family because you might not know who's side they're on. If that's the case, speak to someone you trust or another responsible adult outside of the family.
- You could also speak to a teacher at school.
- Maybe contact [ChildLine](#) to talk to a professional who can offer help and advice.
- Or talk in confidence to one of the organisations and charities listed on our [‘More help and advice’](#) page such as the HM Government Forced Marriage Unit on 020 7708 0151 or Southall Black Sisters on 0208 571 0800.

When you're ready to report it, here's who you can contact below. It's important you come forward even if you know whoever is responsible will get into trouble. It's better they get into trouble than you get hurt or continue to be unhappy.

- You should contact your local police station or speak to your [Safer Schools Officer](#) or [Safer Neighbourhoods Team](#). If it's an emergency you should call 999.
- If you feel unable to talk to us you could contact the [Crimestoppers](#) charity anonymously on 0800 555 111. (You won't have to give your name and your call will not be traced).
- Or for more information visit the [‘Reporting crime’](#) section on the Metropolitan Police website or the [‘How to contact us’](#) page on this site.

Another way to get in touch is to come into any police station at any time or we can arrange to visit you at home or somewhere else if that's easier or more comfortable for you.

You could even ask someone else to speak to us on your behalf, like a friend or relative, a community leader or a solicitor. You could also ask someone from your local authority, housing association or advice bureau to speak to us. The most important thing is that you speak to someone.

Honour based violence and the law

Honour based violence isn't right and certainly isn't legal. It is particularly under-reported, as often victims are too scared, shocked or tied by family or community loyalties to speak out. **For your personal safety and that of the wider community, it's vital that you report any incidents to prevent further crimes.** We deal with every case in the utmost confidence, so please report it and together we can tackle it.

What types of honour based crime are there?

The term 'honour based crime' covers any criminal offence that is driven by a mistaken desire to protect the cultural or traditional beliefs of a family or community. **It may or may not involve violence.** It can include:

- personal attacks of any kind, including physical and sexual violence
- forced marriage
- forced repatriation (sending someone back to a country from which they originate without their consent)
- written or verbal threats or insults
- threatening or abusive phone calls, emails and instant messages

When is it a matter for the police?

Always. We can help you and point you towards any additional support that you may need, and will do everything possible to bring the people responsible to justice. We deal with every incident in a confidential manner and work to protect your safety.

Reporting honour based violence to the police

The Metropolitan Police Service records and investigates 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. We do this so that we can provide more protection that could prevent further abuse or violence or in some cases, forced marriage.

Every London borough where the Metropolitan Police Service operates has a team of specially trained officers, in local specialist Community Safety Units, whose responsibility it is to investigate hate crimes and instances of honour based violence and give you the support you need. They work together with our Child Abuse Investigation Command, [Safer Schools Officers](#) and [Safer Neighbourhood Teams](#) to tackle all honour based violence incidents.

For more information about our [Community Safety Units visit our main Metropolitan Police website.](#)

If you have any questions about honour based viole