



LOVE

not control
PROJECT CHOICE



Project Choice

Supporting those affected by honour based violence and
abuse across Greater Manchester

Project Choice



- Providing practical and emotional support for those affected by all forms of Honour Based Violence and Abuse, including forced marriage and FGM
- We work with all victims regardless of age, gender and sexual orientation
- We work across Greater Manchester and all our services are FREE of charge
- The project is a two year pilot project funded by the Manchester Mayor's Office
- The project provides specialist, locally based, one-to-one, culturally appropriate services.

Emotional Content



- Safeguarding training can be challenging and emotionally charged.
- SCHBVA can be a particularly sensitive and difficult - it's important to take care of your self and others in this space.
- Confidentiality - any personal or professional issue that arise should be treated confidentially

What is Honour?



- What do you think honour is?
- How is it maintained with your family?
- How is it maintained within your community?

Living within an 'honour' system



- An individual living within an honour system lives by a strict set of unwritten rules or codes within a family or marriage.
- These codes may vary but are all broadly based on maintaining the perceived honour of the family within the community, through establishing control over the person's behaviour and choices.
- Victims are often made to feel that they carry a personal responsibility to retain a family's honour and are therefore to blame if they fail to do so.

So-called Honour Based Violence and Abuse



- “Honour Based Abuse and Violence. Embraces a variety of crimes of violence (mainly but not exclusively against women), including assault, imprisonment and murder where the person is being punished by their family or their community. They are being punished for actually, or allegedly, undermining what the family or community believe to be the correct code of conduct.”

[The Right to Choose: Multi-Agency Statutory Guidance for dealing with Forced Marriage](#) (2014)

- Honour based abuse and violence does not discriminate on race, religion, or culture. These hidden crimes can affect people from all communities.

IZZAT

HONOUR

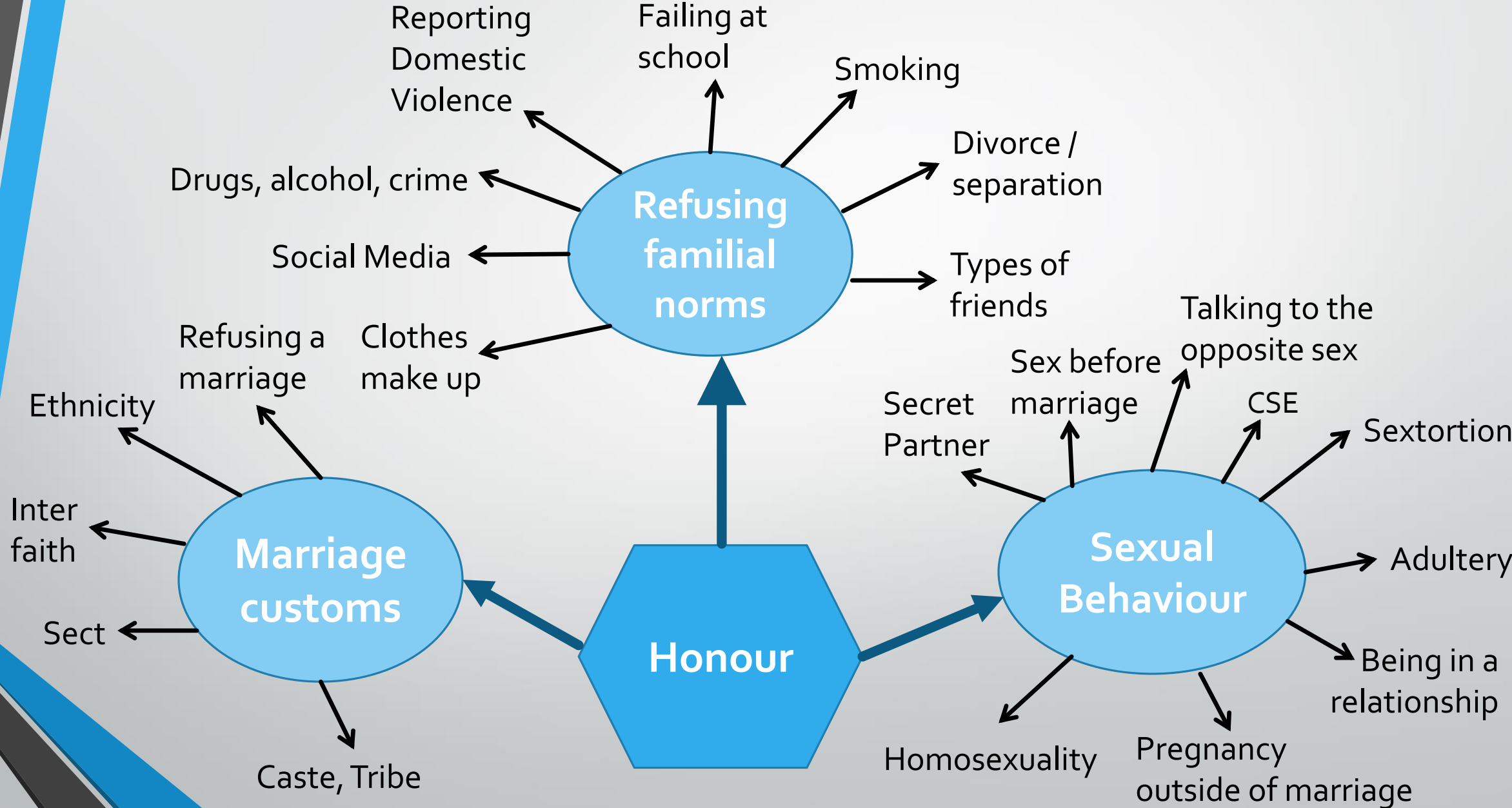
ABAROO

SHARAF

SHARAM

MARYADA

What is dishonourable?



Consequences of Breaking Honour Codes



So called Honour Based Violence and Abuse can include a range of behaviours including:

- Child Abuse
- Domestic Violence and Abuse
- Imprisoned
- Restricted Freedom
- Forced Marriage
- Dowry Abuse
- Sexual Violence
- Stalking and Harassment
- Acid Attacks
- Blackmail
- Kidnap
- Rape
- Murder

Discussion



- What is the difference between an arranged marriage and a forced marriage?
- What does choice mean? How might someone's choices be limited?
- What does consent mean? How do we ensure someone is actually consenting?
- What does coercion mean? How can you coerce someone?

Forced Marriage



“A forced marriage is when or both of the spouses do not **consent** to the marriage but are **coerced** into it. **Duress** can include physical, psychological, financial, sexual and emotional pressure.”

The Right to Choose: Multi-Agency Statutory Guidance for Dealing with Forced Marriage

It is estimate that globally a forced marriage happens every 2 minutes

In 2017 the FMU dealt with 1,196 cases

Coercive Control and Consent



- Challenges around understandings of 'consent' and 'choice'
- Duress can include
 - physical
 - psychological
 - financial
 - sexual
 - emotional
- Consent must be informed
- Some vulnerable adults lack the capacity to consent
- How does someone get supported to be able to recognize their experiences and say no
- Honour based violence cases have coercive control elements – which the victim or the perpetrators might not recognize
- It's important to look past a specific action and consider both the motivation behind the action and how the person involved feels

Why do forced marriages happen?



- Controlling unwanted behaviour and sexuality (particularly that of a woman) and preventing unsuitable relationships
- Family pressures
- Protecting perceived cultural or religious ideals (which can often be misguided)
- Attempting to strengthen family links, family honour or a long standing family commitments
- Ensuring land and property remains within the family
- Assisting claims for residence and citizenship
- Providing a carer for a child or a vulnerable adult with special needs or reducing stigma of a disability

How do you think a forced marriage might affect someone ?



- Physical violence and abuse
- Forced to be sexually intimate, sexually assaulted, raped; unwanted pregnancy
- Controlled - not allowed out, not allowed to continue with education, not allowed to work
- Emotional and mental health difficulties – increase of risk of mental health issues



UK Context of Honour Based Violence and Abuse

Statistics and Legislation

Criminal Offences linked to SCHBVA



- Murder
- Threats to kill
- Inflicting physical injury – assaults
- Procuring a miscarriage, forced abortion
- Kidnapping
- Abduction of Child
- Sexual Offences – rape, indecent assault
- Harassment
- Stalking
- Threats to destroy or damage property
- Perverting the course of justice
- False imprisonment
- Breaching a non-molestation order
- Theft
- Blackmail

Forced Marriage - Legal Position



- The Forced Marriage (Civil Protection) Act 2007 introduced Forced Marriage Protection Orders (FMPO).
- The orders are bespoke and can include: forbidding a person to be taken overseas; surrendering travel documents, including passports; return personal items.
- FMPO can be applied for by: the individual, police, social services or a third party e.g. school, college, IHBVAs
- FMPOs can be served on any and multiple perpetrators e.g. parents, siblings, cousins.

Forced Marriage - Legal Position



- The Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 makes it a criminal offence to force someone into a marriage. Forcing someone to marry can result in 7 years imprisonment.
- The criminal offence of Forced Marriage is also committed if someone who lacks capacity to consent to the marriage is caused, through any conduct, to enter into a marriage (whether or not there is violence, threats or any other form of coercion)
- In addition a breach of a FMPO is a criminal offence and can result in 5 years imprisonment.

Project Choice GM Data



- 286 cases responded to since April 2017
- 139 cases involving forced marriage
- 219 cases involving Honour Based Violence
- 16 cases involving FGM
- 62 FMPO applied for
- 41 clients added to the HBV database

Borough Breakdown



Borough	Number	Borough	Number
Bolton	28	Salford	5
Bury	16	Stockport	7
Manchester	67	Tameside	5
Oldham	133	Trafford	0
Rochdale	22	Wigan	2

Stockport and HBVA

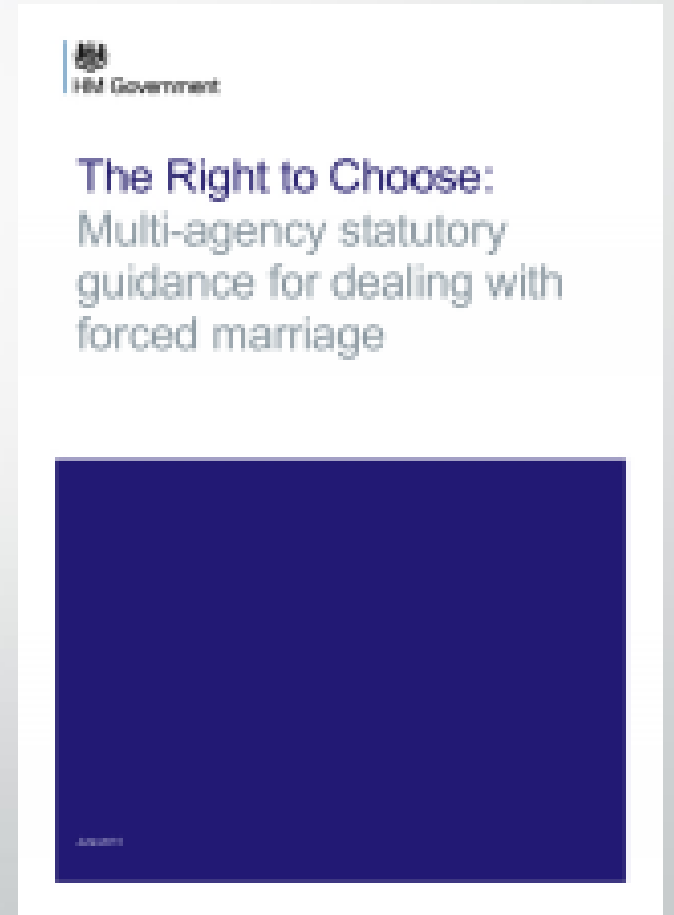


- 7 cases responded to since Aug 2017
- Referring Agency:
 - 2: Children's Social Care
 - 1: Police
 - 1: Legal
 - 1: Adult Social Care
 - 1: Health
 - 1: other
- Ethnicity:
 - 6: Pakistani
 - 1: Saudi Arabia
- 1 client identified as having mental health issues
- 2 FMPO obtained

Policy and Guidance



- Statutory Guidance
- Use with Working Together
- Outlines responsibilities and encourages a multi-agency response
- Forced Marriage Unit – supports with advice and guidance



Barriers faced by Professionals



- Fear you may be wrong.
- Doubts about the child's truthfulness.
- Uncertain of the right procedure.
- Not wanting to interfere in family life.
- Believing you can make everything ok yourself.
- Anxieties about discrimination
- Lack of knowledge about particular religion and / or culture
- Lack of knowledge about forced marriage
- Assumptions about some cultures
- Additional difficulties assessing newly arrived young people e.g. age, lack of history, language barrier, legal status etc.

Barriers to seeking help



- Fear of being disowned, loosing family/community
- Loyalty to community/faith/family
- Language barriers
- Mistrust of authorities
- Fear of bringing shame on family
- Taboo and secretive nature of topics
- Age of victim – particularly FGM
- Lack of specialist services
- Lack of awareness of support
- Threats of abuse
- Fear of criminalising family
- Not having access to finances
- Immigration
- Abuse and violence

One Chance Rule



“You may only have the **one chance** to save a person’s life so get as much information as you can in the **one chance** you may ever have”

What do I do?



- Honour Based Violence and Forced Marriage are safeguarding issues
- Greater Manchester Procedure for Forced Marriage and Honour Based Violence:

http://greatermanchesterscb.proceduresonline.com/chapters/p_force_marriage.html

- If you suspect that honour based violence and/or forced marriage is going to take place, or there is a risk you should make an immediate referral to Children's Social Care via the MASSH or to the Police

MASSH Team Stockport: 0161 217 6028

How to refer into Project Choice

Email:

projectchoice@oldham.gcsx.gov.uk

Phone:

0161 770 2999

Website:

www.oldham.gov.uk/projectchoice

- Referrals taken from all statutory agencies, third sector and self referrals