



KARMA NIRVANA

Supporting victims of honour-based abuse
and forced marriage

What is Honour Based Abuse?

Honour Based Abuse is a complex issue that can manifest itself in different ways; includes a range of harms and abuses; and can be perpetrated by a range of people.

While there is no statutory definition for Honour Based Abuse, it is defined as

*Any incident or pattern of controlling; coercive; manipulative; intimidating; or threatening behaviour, violence, or abuse **perpetrated by one or more family, extended family, and/or community members and/or current/former intimate partners in response to perceived or alleged transgressions of accepted behaviours.** While most often perpetrated against **women and girls, anyone can experience honour based abuse** regardless of age, ethnicity, sexuality, religion, or gender, including men and boys.*

It can encompass but is not limited to:

Psychological, emotional, physical, sexual, spiritual and faith-related, economic, financial, and hate-aggravated abuse; forced marriage; female genital mutilation; abduction; isolation; threats; murder; and other acts of domestic abuse.

*People living in the context of an honour dynamic face **additional barriers** to their ability to speak out against and report abuse for fear of repercussions including further and more severe abuse; shame; stigma; and being shunned/ostracised.*

This definition was created by Karma Nirvana's Survivor Ambassador Panel supported by Dr Lauren Eglon, Rights Lab – University of Nottingham

The Concept of Honour

For some communities, the concept of 'honour' is prized above the safety and wellbeing of individuals. To compromise a family's 'honour' is to bring dishonour and shame – which can have severe consequences.

It can lead to the justification of emotional and physical abuse, disownment, and in extreme cases, even murder to preserve family honour and avoid shame.

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