

## **BRIEFING NOTE 31 – WHAT IS ‘HONOUR’ BASED ABUSE?**

### **1.0 What is honour based abuse?**

- 1.1 The Crown Prosecution Service defines “honour” based abuse<sup>1</sup> as “an incident or crime involving violence, threats of violence, intimidation, coercion or abuse (including psychological, physical, sexual, financial or emotional abuse) which has or may have been committed to protect or defend the honour of an individual, family and/or community for alleged or perceived breaches of the family and/or community’s code of behaviour.”
- 1.2 The Crown Prosecution Service<sup>2</sup> states that such abuse “is a violation of human rights and may be a form of domestic and/or sexual violence. There is no, and cannot be, honour or justification for abusing the human rights of others.”

### **2.0 Examples of honour based abuse**

- 2.1 ‘Honour’ based abuse is not restricted to women and can affect individuals of all genders.
- 2.2 The Norfolk Constabulary<sup>3</sup> indicates that honour based abuse includes:
- Violence
  - Threats of violence
  - Intimidation
  - Coercion

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<sup>1</sup> Source CPS <https://www.cps.gov.uk/legal-guidance/so-called-honour-based-abuse-and-forced-marriage-guidance-identifying-and-flagging>

<sup>2</sup> Source CPS <https://www.cps.gov.uk/publication/honour-based-violence-and-forced-marriage>

<sup>3</sup> Source Norfolk Constabulary <https://www.norfolk.police.uk/advice/assault-abuse-threats/honour-based-abuse>

- Abuse (including psychological, physical, sexual, financial or emotional abuse).

2.3 Various organisations provide more detailed forms including, but not limited to:

- Forced marriage
- Domestic Violence (physical, sexual, emotional or financial abuse)
- Rape
- Abduction
- Threats to kill and murder
- Denial of access to children
- Isolation from friends and own family
- Denial of access to the telephone, internet, or passport/key documentation
- Excessive restrictions of freedom

### **3.0 Facts and Figures**

3.1 The exact figures of 'honour' based abuse are not known as it can be difficult to detect and organisations have highlighted that victims do not wish to report their parents or other family/community members to the Police. It is estimated that there are 12 'honour' murders committed each year in the UK.

3.2 In respect of forced marriage, the Home Office reports 'In 2018, the Forced Marriage Unit (FMU) gave advice or support related to a possible forced marriage in 1,764 cases'. The FMU states that the majority of cases – 1,332 (75%) – involved women, with 297 cases (17%) involving men (gender in the remaining cases was unknown).

### **4.0 The Legislation –**

4.1 'Honour' based abuse in itself is not covered under legislation as an offence. The outcomes of 'honour' based abuse can be covered under a range of

legislation including, but not limited to the Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014<sup>4</sup>, which applies to forced marriage; the Protection from Harassment Act 1997<sup>5</sup>, amended by the Protection of Freedoms Act 2012<sup>6</sup>.

## **5.0 Where can you seek support, advice and further information in the University?**

5.1 The University does not tolerate any form of harassing behaviour, which includes 'honour' based abuse, and individuals do not have to tolerate such inappropriate behaviour or believe that it is their fault.

5.2 The University encourages individuals who have experienced or witnessed 'honour' based abuse, whether on the UEA campus/Norwich Research Park or off campus, to report it to the University as detailed in paragraphs 6.3, 6.4 and 6.5, and/or to the Police.

5.3 Your line manager or a member of the [Human Resources team](#) can provide advice, support and information, including the identification of appropriate workplace support mechanisms, which may include undertaking a risk assessment and helping individuals develop a personal safety plan.

5.4 If it relates to a student(s) or you are a student and not an employee, contact Student Support Service for advice and support.

5.5 The University also provides a [reporting form](#) as part of Never OK for individuals to report incidents of harassment that is experienced by employees, students and visitors at UEA. The information shared is used to offer support and guidance to individuals.

5.6 You can contact your Campus Trade Union representative ([UCU](#), [UNISON](#), [UNITE](#)) for advice and representation.

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<sup>4</sup> Source [Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014](#)

<sup>5</sup> Protection from Harassment Act 1997 <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1997/40/section/2A>

<sup>6</sup> Protection of Freedoms Act 2012 section 2A and 4A  
<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2012/9/contents/enacted>

- 5.7 Signposting advice can be provided by
- A UEA [Staff Pride Dignity & Respect Champion](#)
  - A member of the [Equality & Diversity Team](#)

5.8 You can self-refer to UEA's [Staff Counselling Service](#).

## **6.0 Reporting external to University**

- Norfolk Constabulary on 101. Information and advice on support can be found at <https://www.norfolk.police.uk/advice/assault-abuse-threats/honour-based-abuse> .

## **7.0 Help in an emergency**

- 7.1 If you are in an emergency situation on campus dial 999 or 112 for the Police and dial 01603 592222 for Security.
- 7.2 If you are in an emergency situation off campus dial 999 or 112 for the Police.

## **8.0 Confidentiality**

- 8.1 Individuals who make a disclosure of 'honour' based abuse can be assured that the information they share with the University is confidential and will not normally be shared with other parties without their permission.
- 8.2 However, there may be situations where confidentiality cannot be kept, and this will be made clear to individuals at the time. For example, where the safety of others is at risk, or the safeguarding of children or vulnerable adults. If this is necessary, the University will discuss this with the individual before breaching their confidentiality.

## 9.0 Links to specialist organisations that can offer expert advice and support

- Forced Marriage Unit (020 7008 0151 / [fmufco.gov.uk](mailto:fmufco.gov.uk) )
- [Karma Nirvana](#) supporting victims of honour-based abuse and forced marriage (0800 5999 247)
- [Victim Support](#)
- [akt](#) (The Albert Kennedy Trust) ‘ supports lgbtq+ young people in the UK experiencing homelessness or living in hostile environments to find safe homes...’
- [Southall Black Sisters](#) ‘a fast paced dynamic and leading advocacy service working to highlight and challenge all forms of gender-related violence against women.’
- [Leeway](#) (0300 561 0077) offer telephone support and hold [weekly appointments](#) on the UEA Campus, where UEA staff and students of all genders can speak confidentially to an outreach worker.
- [Women’s Aid](#) a Freephone (0808 2000 247) 24 hour National Domestic Violence Helpline run by Refuge and Women’s Aid.

## 10.0 Exiting from a website quickly or hiding your browser history

10.1 Many websites that provide advice and information on honour based abuse, domestic violence, stalking or sexual assault provide an “exit”, “quick escape” or “leave this website” button on their webpages. For instance, if someone enters the room you can use this button to switch quickly to another website.

10.2 To prevent someone from tracking your browser history, try using a different computer or device or turn off your browser history.

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