



Diogelu Gwent
Gwent Safeguarding

Honour Based Abuse

Regional Multi-Agency Guidance



Ratified by Board
January 2026

Protocols & Procedures
Sub Group

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1. Introduction

1.1 'Honour Based Abuse ' is a crime or incident which has or may have been committed to protect or defend the honour of the family and/or community. Honour Based Abuse does not cover one specific crime; it is a specific category of domestic abuse, generally occurs in domestic settings and can involve a range of offending behaviours which are used against individuals, families or other social groups to control and protect perceived cultural / religious beliefs and honour.

1.2 Honour Based Abuse (HBA) may include murder, fear of or actual forced marriage, controlling sexual activity, domestic violence and abuse (including psychological, physical, sexual, financial or emotional), child abuse, rape, kidnapping, false imprisonment, assault, harassment and forced abortion. These crimes cut across all cultures, nationalities, faith groups and communities and transcend national and international boundaries and can affect both children and adults. Honour Based Abuse is a violation of human rights and there is no 'honour' in the commission of the offences. The offences are predominantly perpetrated against women and girls, but men and boys can also be victims.

1.3 HBA often overlaps with harmful practices. **Harmful practices** are forms of abuse that are often rooted in tradition, custom, culture, or belief systems, but which are **illegal, abusive** and constitute **serious violations of human rights**. They are used to control, punish, or restrict individuals who are perceived to have transgressed social, family, or community norms. Similarly to HBA, harmful practices can affect **adults and children**, and predominantly impact **women and girls**, though men and boys can also be victims.

1.4 Harmful practices are not linked to any single religion or culture and occur across communities worldwide. They should never be justified on the basis of culture, tradition, honour, or belief. In the UK, harmful practices are recognised as forms of **domestic abuse, child abuse, and safeguarding concerns**, and may involve **multiple perpetrators**, including family members and extended networks.

1.5 The glossary in Appendix One contains examples of types of HBA/harmful practices along with definitions.

2. Purpose

2.1 The Gwent Safeguarding Board and Gwent Violence Against Women, Domestic Abuse, and Sexual Violence (VAWDASV) Regional Team have collaborated to produce guidance to support practitioners in understanding, preventing, and responding to HBA. This guidance should be read in conjunction with your own organisational policies and with Wales Safeguarding Procedures. This guidance is not considered an exhaustive document, and any concerns will require a response tailored to their individual circumstances. Advice and guidance can be sought from the VAWDASV Regional Team, Gwent Police, and specialist providers, with contact details provided in the resources section below.

2.2 It is recognised that this can be a complex and challenging area of work for practitioners and can often be difficult to identify. This is reflected in the low numbers of reported instances of HBA in Gwent, despite anecdotal evidence suggesting that HBA does occur. The guidance seeks to increase awareness and ensure that HBS is identified, recorded, and responded to appropriately and consistently throughout the region.

3. Definition and Legislation

3.3 As mentioned above, there is no single offence of Honour Based Abuse and the lack of a consistent definition can contribute to challenges in identifying and recording HBA.

3.4 The Gwent region has agreed to adopt the definition of HBA used by the Crown Prosecution Service, as below.

“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.”

3.5 Although there is no single piece of legislation governing HBA, the response will be informed by other relevant pieces of legislation such as:

- [Social Services and Well-being \(Wales\) Act 2014](#)
- [Violence against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence \(Wales\) Act 2015](#)
- [Domestic Abuse Act 2021](#)
- [Protection from Harassment Act 1997](#)
- [Crime and Disorder Act 1998](#)
- [Children Act 1989](#)
- [Sexual Offences Act 2003](#)
- [Domestic Violence, Crime and Victims Act 2004](#)
- [Forced Marriage \(Civil Protection\) Act 2007](#)
- [Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014](#)
- [Female Genital Mutilation Act 2003](#)
- [Serious Crime Act 2015](#)

3.6 Reference should also be given to the Wales Safeguarding Procedures:

- [Safeguarding Wales](#) (children)
- [Safeguarding Wales](#) (adults)

4. How To Identify Honour Based Abuse: Potential Signs, Indicators and Examples

4.1 HBA is a cultural, not a religious phenomenon. It impacts in a range of communities. The challenges for services include developing responses that keep people safe and hold perpetrators to account without stereotyping, stigmatising or making assumptions about any given individual or community.

4.2 In order to recognise when an individual may be at risk of HBA or when HBA may be taking place, it is important to understand some of the reasons why it might be perpetrated, both against adults and children/young people. Although this is not an exhaustive list, examples include:

- Protecting family 'honour' or 'Izzat' an Urdu word which means protecting family honour or reputation;
- To control un-wanted behaviour and sexuality (including perceived promiscuity or being lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender);
- As a response to family, community or peer group pressure;
- Strengthening family links;

- Protecting perceived cultural and/or religious ideals (mis-guided or dated);
- Retaining wealth, property or land within the family;
- Assisting claims for residence and citizenship in the UK;
- A response to perceived immoral behaviour, which could include: -
 - Inappropriate make-up or dress;
 - Possession and/or use of a mobile telephone;
 - Kissing or showing other forms of intimacy in public;
 - Rejecting a forced marriage;
 - Being a victim of rape or other serious sexual assault;
 - Inter-faith relationships;
 - Seeking a divorce;
 - Defying parental authority;
 - Use of alcohol, drugs, or cigarettes;
 - Sexual relationships or pregnancy outside of marriage;
 - Becoming 'westernised' in style of clothes, make-up, behaviour and attitudes;
 - Having aspiration for a career;
 - Gossip – family honour can be damaged by rumour and gossip that is not true but believed to be true by other members of the community.

4.2 HBA can involve a range of different behaviours and may encompass various forms of abuse against both adults and children/young people, including domestic abuse and coercive control, forced marriage, female genital mutilation, emotional abuse, physical abuse, sexual abuse, financial abuse, and neglect. HBA can sometimes culminate in murder, and this will often be a culmination of events which take place over a period of time and may be planned. This is not an exhaustive list, but some behaviours which may precipitate a killing in the name of honour may include:

- Threats to kill;
- Denial of access to adults/children;
- Pressure to go abroad (victims are sometimes persuaded to return to their country of origin under false pretences, when in fact the intention could be to kill them);
- Female genital mutilation
- House arrest and/or excessive restrictions of movement/travel and other activities;
- Denial of access to the telephone, internet, passport and friends.
- Removal/denial of access to support networks (services, isolation from family/friends)
- Acid attacks

4.3 An individual who is at risk of, or experiencing HBA, may display or experience a wide range of behaviours that are indicative of abuse or neglect. Practitioners should make themselves aware of the potential indicators that may suggest an individual is at risk of, or experiencing HBA. Examples include:

- Going missing (from home and school) in an attempt to keep themselves safe;
- Being restricted in their movements and overly supervised;
- Lack of access to the internet, mobile phones, and their passport or family members;
- Forced marriage or being forced to live elsewhere (for more information on Forced Marriage, please see [Understanding Forced Marriage: A Critical Analysis](#));
- Being withdrawn from education by those with parental responsibility and /or requests for extended leave;
- Unreasonable financial control, for example confiscation of wages/income;
- Deterioration in mental health, including self-harm and/or suicidal ideation;
- Withdrawing from support networks, be those professional or informal (friends/family).

4.4 This is not an exhaustive list and each individual cases needs to be assessed holistically and within the context of the individual and their lived experiences.

4.5 The Wales Safeguarding Procedures also provide examples of indicators which may suggest a child or young person is at risk of HBA, in particular forced marriage. Again, this is not an exhaustive list, but practitioners should use their professional curiosity if one or more of these indicators are present.

EDUCATION

- Absence or sudden disappearance
- Request for extended leave of absence and failure to return from visits to country of origin
- Fear about forthcoming school holidays
- Surveillance by siblings or cousins at school
- Decline in behaviour, engagement, performance or punctuality
- Being withdrawn from school by those with parental responsibility
- Not allowed to attend extra-curricular activities
- Sudden announcement of engagement
- Prevented from going on to further/higher education

FAMILY HISTORY

- Siblings forced to marry
- Early marriage of siblings
- Self-harm or suicide of siblings
- Death of a parent
- Family disputes
- Running away from home
- Unreasonable restrictions e.g. kept at home by parents (“house arrest”) & financial restrictions

POLICE INVOLVEMENT

- Victim or other siblings within the family reported missing
- Reports of domestic abuse, harassment or breaches of the peace at the family home
- Female genital mutilation
- The victim reported for offences e.g. shoplifting or substance misuse
- Threats to kill and attempts to kill or harm
- Reports of other offences such as rape or kidnap
- Acid attacks

HEALTH

- Accompanied to doctor’s or clinics
- Self-harm
- Attempted suicide
- Eating disorders
- Depression
- Isolation
- Substance misuse
- Early/unwanted pregnancy
- Female genital mutilation

4.6 Karma Nirvana are a specialist charity committed to supporting victims and survivors of HBA. They have produced a Toolkit and accompanying guidance which can support practitioners in identifying HBA and includes guidance as to exploratory questions which can support professional curiosity and assessment. The tool and guidance can be found here: [Karma Nirvana’s HBA Identification Tool – Karma Nirvana](#).

4.7 BAWSO also offer specialist support for victims and survivors of HBA in Gwent and Wales, further information can be found here. [Bawso | Supporting ethnic minorities affected by violence and exploitation](#)

5 The Impact of Honour Based Abuse

5.1 Honour Based Abuse is a very specific form of domestic abuse and can have a significant and long-lasting impact on victims and survivors. However, honour crimes differ significantly from other forms of domestic abuse; while typical incidents of domestic violence involve perpetrators using force against their partners, honour-based abuses regularly involve a victim's own parents, sons, brothers and sisters, as well as members of their extended family and in-laws and the wider community. HBA often involves multiple perpetrators, and the abuse is usually committed with some degree of approval and/or collusion by family members or the wider community. Therefore, practitioners must be mindful of this in their responses where HBA is suspected (please see section 6 below). Conversely, practitioners should exercise caution and not make the assumption that all incidents of Domestic Abuse within BAME communities are related to HBA.

5.2 Those experiencing HBA will often be isolated from their families and friends and denied access to support services available. Adults/Children and young people who have been raped may be perceived by relatives as having brought it upon themselves; a family member(s) may inflict abuse or kill them as a consequence, and this may mean that victims of rape and/or sexual assault are unlikely to make disclosures or seek support. This can make it very difficult to identify and support those at risk, and also increases the risk of mental health concerns, including the risk of self-harm and suicide. It is also important for practitioners to recognise that those experiencing HBA may have been led to believe that mental health difficulties or feelings of depression are not valid, and therefore it may be difficult for them to recognise this impact again making it more difficult for them to seek support in this respect.

5.3 Families may feel shame long after the incident that brought about dishonour occurred. Therefore, the risk of harm to an Adult or young person can persist for some time. This may mean that a new boy/girlfriend, baby (if pregnancy caused the family to feel 'shame'), associates or siblings may also be at risk of harm. The impact of HBA can therefore be wide-ranging and long lasting.

6 Responding to Honour Based Abuse

6.1 Honour Based Abuse is a very specific form of domestic abuse and requires a trauma-informed, tailored response to ensure that victims are not placed at increased risk within their community. All practitioners working with victims of HBA, especially when linked to Forced Marriage, need to be aware of the “**one chance**”

rule. That is, they may only have one chance to speak to a potential victim and thus they may only have one chance to prevent harm or save a life.

Immediate Response

6.2 If you are concerned that an adult, child, or young person is at risk of honour based abuse, it is essential that you recognise the seriousness and immediacy of the risk of harm, and act immediately. If you are concerned that there is immediate risk of significant harm, should contact the Police on 999 and request an immediate response. Do not contact family members as this may increase the risk posed to the adult, child, or young person.

6.3 Victims of HBA are sometimes persuaded, threatened, or forced, to return to their country of origin under false pretences, when in fact the intention could be to kill them. If it is believed that an Adult or young person has been, or is at risk of being, taken abroad, contact the Police via 999 so that an immediate response can be taken.

Submission of a Duty to Report

6.4 As above, if there is an imminent risk of harm or it is believed that a crime is in action, contact should be made with the police via 999.

6.5 Information or concern that an adult, child, or young person is at risk of, or has already suffered HBA should result in the submission of an immediate Duty to Report to Adults or Children's Services. In the event of immediate concerns, the Duty to Report can be submitted by telephone and followed up in writing within 24 hours, as per the Wales Safeguarding Procedures. Please see this links for details on submission of a Duty to Report to Adult's and Children's Services in the Gwent region.

[Report an adult at risk - Gwent Safeguarding](#)

[Report a child at risk - Gwent Safeguarding](#)

6.6 The need for a Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference referral should also be considered where appropriate, for example where an adult does not have identified care and support needs and/or capacity issues and may not meet the adult at risk criteria. For more information regarding MARAC, please see here [Gwent MARAC guidance and completion](#).

Multi-Agency Approach

- 6.7 On receipt of the Duty to Report, Adult Safeguarding and/or Children's Duty Teams need to give consideration to convening a Strategy Meeting/Discussion This should involve representatives from the Police and Adult or Children's Services, and any other key partners for example Health, Education, Housing, or voluntary/third sector agencies with specialist expertise (e.g. domestic abuse, sexual abuse, honour based abuse). Consideration should also be given to inviting a legal advisor.
- 6.8 multi-agency planning should consider the need for providing suitable safe accommodation for the adult, child or young person, as appropriate. Local authorities can apply to the courts for various orders, to protect an adult, child or young person at risk of HBA. In emergency situations consideration should also be given to the use of Police Protection. However, these expire after 72 hours, so further provisions would have to be considered after this time.
- 6.9 Consideration should also be given to where a MARAC should be convened (see above 6.6)
- 6.10 The strategy Meeting/Discussion should also give consideration to information security and how information will be recorded and managed, given the sensitivity and risk implications of information is shared inappropriately.
- 6.11 Adults who return to their families should be offered support including escape plans, the opportunity to deposit their DNA, photograph and fingerprints with the police.
- 6.12 The police should lead on a criminal enquiry if appropriate.

Specific Considerations

- 6.13 It takes a lot of courage for an adult, child or young person to report to an agency that they have afraid that they will be, or have been, subjected to HBA. It is essential, therefore, that you act in a manner that will not further jeopardise the adult, child or young person's safety. It is vital that the following points are adhered to for the safety of the adult, child or young person:

DO NOT

- Under no circumstances should the agency allow the Adult's family or social network to find out about the disclosure, so as not to put the Adult at further risk of harm;
- Under no circumstances speak to victims in the presence of their relatives;
Under no circumstances approach the family or community leaders, share any information with them or attempt any form of mediation.
- In particular, members of the local community should NOT be used as interpreters.
- The adult, child, or young person must not be sent home against their wishes.

DO

- Take the disclosure seriously;
- See the adult, child, or young person immediately, alone if possible, and in a secure and private place.
- Explain to the adult, child or young person the limits of confidentiality, what information may have to be shared, with whom, and for what purpose;
- Ask direct questions to gather enough information to make a referral to Adult/Children's Services and the Police, including recording the adult, child or young person's wishes;
- Agree a means of discreet future contact with the adult, child or young person;
- Explain that a referral to Adults/Children's Services and Gwent Police will be made.

6.14 Mediation, arbitration, reconciliation and family counselling as a response to Honour Based Abuse can be extremely dangerous and may increase the

adult, child or young person's vulnerability and place them in danger. Any unsupervised contact with their family needs to be carefully assessed as it can place the adult, child or young person at risk of further emotional abuse or lead to pressure being placed on them to return home. However, if the adult, child, or young person does wish to go home or talk to their family all the risks should be explained and a safety plan put in place.

6.15 Mediation as a response to Honour Based Abuse and Forced Marriage can be extremely dangerous. There have been cases of victims being murdered by their families during mediation. Mediation can also place someone at risk of further emotional and physical abuse.

6.16 Do not use family members, friends, neighbours or those with influence in the community as interpreters; victims may feel embarrassed to discuss personal issues in front of them and sensitive information may be passed on to others and place the victim in danger. Furthermore, such an interpreter may deliberately mislead practitioners and/or encourage the person to drop the complaint and submit to their family's wishes. Practitioners should consult internal policies and procedures relating to the use of interpreters and be aware of the potential risks. Practitioners should also be mindful that language may be a barrier to disclosure and engagement, and approaches should be tailored to ensure individual needs are met.

6.17 In some cases, individuals such as family members/friends/neighbours or indeed the perpetrators of the HBA may make contact with the Police to report the individual as missing, or to enquire as to their whereabouts. In these circumstances it is important to take a consistent approach and advise that as a service you do not comment on individuals/cases, rather than to confirm or deny involvement.

7. Individuals with No Recourse to Public Funds

7.1 Individuals with No Recourse to Public Funds (NRPF) can be disproportionately impacted by Honour Based Abuse and harmful practices, as their immigration status may be used by perpetrators as a tool of coercion and control. Fear of homelessness, destitution, detention or removal from the UK can prevent victims from seeking help or leaving abusive situations, particularly where access to housing, welfare benefits and refuge accommodation is restricted. Perpetrators or family members may exploit this vulnerability by threatening to withdraw financial support, report the individual to immigration authorities, or withhold identity documents, further isolating the victim and increasing risk. Practitioners must recognise NRPF as an additional safeguarding vulnerability and ensure responses prioritise safety, lawful entitlements, and access to

specialist advice, in line with the Wales Safeguarding Procedures and trauma-informed practice.

7.2 When an adult survivor of VAWDASV cannot access benefits and housing assistance due to having NRPf, Social Services has a duty to assess see section 19 of the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014 whether they have care and support needs, and if so, what those needs are. This duty applies to single adults as well as families. The outcome of this assessment should be provided to the person in writing with reasons.

7.3 In carrying out the needs assessment a local authority must:

1. seek to identify the outcomes that the adult wishes to achieve in day to day life
2. assess whether, and if so to what extent, the provision of care and support, preventative services, or information, advice or assistance, could contribute to the achievement of those outcomes or otherwise meet needs identified by the assessment
3. assess whether, and if so, to what extent, other matters could contribute to the achievement of those outcomes or otherwise meet those needs

7.4 An adult survivor of VAWDASV subject to NRPf may be provided with accommodation and financial support by Social Services subject to satisfying the conditions outlined under section 35 of the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014, when a local authority has assessed that someone requires care, for example a care package or a place in a domestic abuse refuge.

The Destitution Domestic Violence Concession (DDVC)

7.5 Some migrant survivors of domestic abuse are eligible to apply for indefinite leave to remain in the UK under the Domestic Violence (DV) Rule. This is sometimes referred to as the SET DV application. Individuals whose most recent Leave to Enter or Remain was as the spouse, civil partner or unmarried partner of someone who is British citizen or has Indefinite Leave to Remain (even if that immigration permission has since expired), whose relationship was current at the time the immigration permission was issued and whose relationship has broken down because of domestic abuse by a partner or family member, may be eligible to apply under the DV rule.

The difference between the DVr and the DDVC

7.6 The Domestic Violence Rule is a provision in the Immigration Rules that allows those who are eligible to apply for indefinite leave to remain in the UK as a victim of domestic abuse. Obtaining indefinite leave to remain gives migrants the same entitlement to social housing, welfare benefits, work, renting, and healthcare, as any British citizen.

- 7.7 The DDVC is a form of temporary leave to remain which gives access to public funds for destitute survivors on spousal / partner visas for 3 months while they apply for indefinite leave to remain under the Domestic Violence Rule (DVR). This replaces the survivor's existing leave to remain (spousal/partner visa), meaning that the survivor would be unable to go back to their spousal visa.
- 7.8 A successful application for Indefinite Leave to Remain would mean they were no longer subject to NRPF conditions. If a survivor is destitute and needs financial help, they can make an application under the Destitution Domestic Violence Concession (DDVC) for 3 months' temporary Leave to Remain while applying for Indefinite leave to remain. This Leave to Remain replaces the applicant's previous leave as a spouse/civil partner. During this three-month period, the survivor will be able to access public funds.
- 7.9 If the survivor submits an application for Indefinite leave to remain before the end of the three-month temporary leave to remain, this Leave to Remain is automatically extended under Section 3c of the Immigration Act 1971 until the Home Office makes a decision on the ILR application.
- 7.10 If you are supporting someone you suspect may be eligible remember that only OISC regulated immigration solicitors or barristers are permitted to advise individuals on their immigration options, so you must not tell them they are eligible. Instead, offer to help the survivor to arrange an appointment with a regulated immigration advisor or solicitor which can be found by using the GOV.UK finder service to get advice on their immigration options
- 7.11 Further information can be found here: [No recourse to public funds \(NRPF\): guidance \[HTML\] | GOV.WALES](#) and the regional VAWDASV Team have NRPF practitioners trained across the region. If you would like to find out who your local practitioner is, please contact the VAWDASV Team via vawdasv.gwent@newport.gov.uk

8. Record Keeping and Recording of Information

- 8.1 It is important for Adult and Children's Services to obtain as much information as possible when an adult, child or young person is first referred or first discloses, as there may not be another opportunity. A record should be taken of the adult, child or young person's immediate personal details and the family details, including any information about the need for an interpreter.
- 8.2 It is vital that you make sure that you make a full record of:
- What is said;
 - By whom;
 - What you have done;
 - What action you have taken;

- Who you have referred the adult, child, or young person to; and
- What they have said to you about the referral and any subsequent action.

8.3 Every case needs to have careful consideration as to how information is recorded and shielded within the organisation on internal systems and should be marked accordingly. In all cases, case details should be restricted and access granted only to those working on the case and relevant managers.

8.4 The security of all information needs to be prioritised, and consideration must be given as to how your agency can sensitively manage this information. Practitioners should be mindful of requests for information regarding any individuals where HBA is suspected and refer to their agency policy on information sharing.

9. Signposting and Support for Victims

- **In an emergency: Call 999 as soon as possible. Remember the Silent Solution system – if someone cannot speak when the operator answers press 55 to make the call handler aware when they are in danger and cannot speak.**

[Silent Solution | Independent Office for Police Conduct \(IOPC\)](#)

Information/Resources for Practitioners

- Useful Resources Welsh Government VAWDASV e-learning module

[Course: Violence Against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence](#)

- NSPCC 'Let Children Know You're Listening

[Let children know you are listening | NSPCC Learning](#)

- ['Honour' Based Abuse \(HBA\) - Gwent Safeguarding](#)

Support for Service Users

- Welsh Women's Aid Live Fear Free Helpline :

24/7 Free Support Phone: 0808 80 10 800 (confidential, supports English, Welsh, multilingual)

Email: info@livefearfreehelpline.wales

Text: 07458 1415

[Live Fear Free Helpline : Welsh Women's Aid](#)

- Bawso: BAWSO provide a 24/7 helpline for Black and minoritised women in Wales affected by domestic abuse, harmful practices, trafficking, and modern slavery. They offer culturally sensitive, language-specific support, including refuge, advocacy, and outreach services across Wales.

Contact Information: 24/7 Helpline (free, confidential): 0800 731 8147

Office Phone (Mon–Fri): 029 20 644 633

Email: info@bawso.org.uk

Referrals Email: referrals@bawso.org.uk

Website: <http://www.bawso.org.uk/>

- Cyfannol Women's Aid: (Torfaen, Monmouthshire, Blaenau Gwent, Newport):

[Home - Abuse and sexual violence support - Cyfannol Women's Aid](#)

- Welsh Women's Aid: Welsh Women's Aid is the national charity in Wales working to end domestic abuse and all forms of violence against women. They coordinate a network of local specialist services, providing lifesaving support such as refuge accommodation, counselling, advocacy, training, and public campaigning.

[Home : Welsh Women's Aid](#)

- Galop: LGBTQ+ Helpline – Open to anyone in the LGBTQ+ community, as well as friends, family and professionals who may be concerned about an LGBTQ+ person who is facing abuse.

T: 0800 999 5428.

E: help@galop.org.uk

<https://www.galop.org.uk/>

- Karma Nirvana: Helpline for anyone experiencing, working with or worries about someone experiencing 'honour'-based abuse and forced marriage.

T: 0800 5999 247 Mon-Fri 9am-5pm

[Karma Nirvana](#)

- New Pathways: The largest sexual violence support provider in Wales, with 30 years' experience of delivering specialist therapeutic support to adults and children affected by the trauma of rape, sexual assault or sexual abuse.

[New Pathways Rape crisis and sexual abuse support services.](#)

- Men's Advice Line: – Confidential helpline, email and webchat service for self-identifying men who are experiencing or have experienced domestic abuse, and for those supporting them.

T: 0808 801 0327 (Mon-Fri 10am -8pm).

Webchat: mensadvice.org.uk (Wed 10-11.30am and 2.30-4pm)

[Domestic Abuse Helpline for Men | Men's Advice Line UK](#)

- Suzy Lamplugh Trust: National Stalking Helpline provides support and advocacy to survivors, family, friends and professionals who are concerned about someone experiencing stalking in UK.

T: 0808 802 0300 9.30am- 8pm Mon & Wed and 9.30am – 4pm Tue, Thurs and Fri.

[Suzy Lamplugh Trust](#)

- Respect Helpline: Provides confidential support and advice for perpetrators of DVA who want to change.

T: 0808 802 4040

[Charity to Help Domestic Abuse Perpetrators | Respect Phonenumber UK](#)

- Sign Health: A specialist service for Deaf adults and children who have experienced abuse. To make a referral or ask for advice:

T: 02039472600 or Text: 07970350366

Email: da@signhealth.org.uk

[The deaf health charity SignHealth](#)

- Sikh Women's Aid:
0333 090 1220
[Sikh Women's Aid Domestic Abuse Charity](#)
- Muslim Women's Network Helpline
0800 999 5786
[Muslim Women Network](#)
- Jewish Women's Aid Helpline
0808 801 0500
[Contact us - Jewish Women's Aid](#)
- The Traveller Movement
0754 1637 795
[Home | The Traveller Movement](#)
- Travelling Ahead
[Travelling Ahead: Wales Gypsy, Roma and Traveller Advice and Advocacy Service « TGP Cymru](#)
- Latin American Women's Aid: 02072750321
[Latin American Women's Aid \(LAWA\): domestic violence support](#)
- Forced Marriage Unit:
020 7008 0151
email: fmf@fco.gov.uk
[Forced marriage - GOV.UK](#)
- FLOWS – Finding Legal options for Women's Survivors:
T: 0203 745 7707
[FLOWS | Finding Legal Options for Women Survivors](#)
- Mankind Initiative: Helping men to escape domestic abuse.
T: 01823 334 244
[ManKind Initiative - Supporting Male Victims of Domestic Abuse](#)
- Women & Girls Network Sexual Violence Helpline:
T: 0808 801 0770
[Sexual Violence Helpline - Women and Girls Network](#)

- The Female Genital Mutilation Helpline (NSPCC):
T: 0800 028 3550
[Female Genital Mutilation - Prevent & Protect | NSPCC](#)

Gwent Local Authority Adults Services:

- Blaenau Gwent
Tel: 01495 315700
Email: DutyTeamAdults@blaenau-gwent.gov.uk
- Caerphilly
Tel: 0808 100 2500
Email: IAAAdults@caerphilly.gov.uk
- Torfaen
Tel: 01495 762200
Email: socialcarecalltorfaen@torfaen.gov.uk
- Newport
Tel: 01633 656656
Email: firstcontact.adults@newport.gov.uk
- Monmouthshire
Tel: 01873 735492
Email: MCCadultsafeguarding@monmouthshire.gov.uk

Gwent Local Authority Children's Services:

- Blaenau Gwent
Tel: 01495 315700
Email: DutyTeam@blaenau-gwent.gov.uk
- Caerphilly
Tel: 0808 100 1727
Email: contactandreferral@caerphilly.gov.uk
- Monmouthshire
Tel: 01291 635 669
Email: ChildDuty@monmouthshire.gov.uk
- Newport
Tel: 01633 656656
Email: children.duty@newport.gov.uk
- Torfaen
Tel: 01495 762200
Email: CS.Contact@Torfaen.Gov.UK

After 5pm and on weekends and bank holidays please contact the South East Wales Emergency Duty Team on 0800 328 4432.

Appendix One: Definitions

Honour Based Abuse (HBA)

Honour Based Abuse refers to an incident or crime involving violence, threats of violence, intimidation, coercion or abuse (including psychological, physical, sexual, financial or emotional abuse) which has been committed, or may have been committed, to protect or defend the perceived honour of an individual, family, and/or community for an alleged or perceived breach of expected behaviour.

There is no single criminal offence of Honour Based Abuse. Instead, it encompasses a range of criminal and safeguarding matters, including domestic abuse, child abuse, sexual offences, forced marriage, stalking, harassment and, in extreme cases, homicide. HBA is recognised in Wales as a serious form of domestic abuse and safeguarding concern and may involve multiple perpetrators, including immediate and extended family members and wider community networks.

The concept of “honour” should never be used to justify abuse. There is no honour in violence or coercion.

Harmful Practices

Harmful practices are forms of abuse that are often rooted in tradition, custom, culture or belief systems, but which are illegal, abusive, and constitute serious violations of human rights. They are used to control, punish, or restrict individuals who are perceived to have transgressed family, social or community norms.

Harmful practices can affect both adults and children and disproportionately impact women and girls, though men and boys can also be victims. They are not specific to any one religion or culture and occur across communities globally.

In Wales and the wider UK, harmful practices are recognised as forms of domestic abuse, child abuse and safeguarding concerns, and often overlap with Honour Based Abuse. Responses must prioritise safeguarding and criminal justice interventions rather than mediation or family-based resolution.

Examples of harmful practices include, but are not limited to:

- Forced marriage
- Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)

- Violence, abuse or threats justified by family or community honour
 - Coercive restrictions on education, relationships, movement, employment or autonomy
 - Abduction or being taken abroad under false pretences
 - Serious assault or killing in the name of honour
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Forced Marriage

A forced marriage occurs where one or both parties are pressured, coerced or threatened into a marriage without their free and informed consent. This pressure may be physical, emotional, psychological, financial, sexual, or involve threats, deception or abuse of power.

Forced marriage is a criminal offence under UK law and is also recognised as a form of:

- Domestic abuse
- Child abuse (where the victim is under 18)
- Honour Based Abuse
- A safeguarding concern for both adults and children

Forced marriage is distinct from an arranged marriage, where both parties freely consent and have the right to refuse. Practitioners must be mindful of the serious and immediate risks associated with forced marriage, particularly where there are plans for travel abroad.

Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)

Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) refers to all procedures involving the partial or total removal of the external female genitalia, or other injury to the female genital organs, for non-medical reasons.

FGM is a serious criminal offence in the UK and a form of child abuse and violence against women and girls. It is an extreme form of gender-based violence and a violation of human rights.

FGM may be planned over time, carried out in the UK or overseas, and may involve family and extended community members. Practitioners have a statutory duty to act where a girl or woman is known to have undergone, or is at risk of undergoing, FGM.

Coercive Control

Coercive control is a pattern of behaviour used by a perpetrator to dominate, manipulate, intimidate or isolate another person and to deprive them of autonomy and freedom.

It may include:

- Surveillance and monitoring
- Isolation from friends, family or services
- Financial abuse
- Threats, humiliation or intimidation
- Control over education, employment, healthcare or relationships
- Restrictions on movement, communication or personal choice

Coercive control is recognised as a criminal offence and is a core feature of domestic abuse. In the context of Honour Based Abuse and harmful practices, coercive control is often perpetrated by multiple family members and may be justified using cultural, moral or honour-based narratives.