

Help or advice:

- **Dorset Police:** contact us by calling 101 or visit dorset.police.uk/do-it-online. Dial 999 in an emergency. We have specialists who can provide advice and officers will treat all information in confidence.
- **Forced Marriage Unit:** If any woman, man, girl or boy is worried about the threat of forced marriage either here or abroad you can contact the HM Government Forced Marriage Unit on 0207 008 0151 (or outside office hours 0207 008 1500) or they can seek advice online at www.gov.uk/stop-forced-marriage
- **Leaving the country?** If you are at an airport you must approach a uniformed staff member - police officer, UK Border Force or HM Customs & Revenue official or a uniformed airline official urgently requesting to speak with police.
- **Dorset County You First:** Responsible for outreach, refuge and safe house provision across the county of Dorset - 0800 0325204
- **National Domestic Violence Helpline:** 0808 2000 247

- **NSPCC FGM Helpline:** 0800 028 3550
- **Childline:** provides a free 24 hour counselling service for children and young people up to their 19th birthday - 0800 1111
- **Karma Nirvana Honour Network Helpline:** Supporting victims of honour crimes and forced marriages - 0800 5999 247
- **Bournemouth Domestic Abuse Referral Pathway:** This service provides support to victims of domestic abuse aged 16 and over living in Bournemouth - 01202 547755
- **Poole Outreach:** Provides support to victims of domestic abuse aged 16 and over living in Poole - 01202 710777
- **Crimestoppers:** The UK's only independent crime fighting charity - 0800 555 111



Honour based abuse, female genital mutilation and forced marriage



Honour based abuse

Honour based abuse is defined as ‘an incident or crime which has or may have been committed to protect or defend the honour of the family and or the community’.

It is described as a way to prevent a person from bringing shame to a family or community, or punish them for doing so.

Honour based abuse will often go hand in hand with forced marriages, although this is not always the case.

Female genital mutilation

Female genital mutilation is a crime. It comprises of all procedures involving the partial or total removal of the external female genitalia or any other injury to the female genital organs for non-medical reasons.

Female genital mutilation is sometimes known as ‘female genital cutting’ or female circumcision. Communities tend to use local names for referring to this practice, including ‘sunna’.

Forced marriage

Forced marriage is a crime. It is where one or both spouses do not or cannot consent to the marriage and duress is used by family, friends or the community. Duress can come in many forms and can include threats, physical, sexual, psychological abuse and emotional pressure.

It is a form of domestic abuse and is in some cases child abuse.

Forced Marriage is not the same as an arranged marriage where both parties give full consent.

You can choose if and whom you want to marry and should not feel forced to marry against your will.



Forced marriage, honour based abuse and female genital mutilation are crimes in the UK. You have rights and help is out there.

All adults and children have the right to live without fear, to not be abused, threatened or controlled.

Who can help?

If you are worried about the risk or threats of abuse or forced marriage from family or community either towards yourself or another, help is out there. The police and partner agencies are here to offer support, advice and protect you.

You don't have to put up with abuse.

If you come to Dorset Police we **will**:

- Believe you
- Recognise and record your wishes as the victim
- Treat the matter seriously, sensitively and in confidence
- Work with you to keep you safe. Safety is the absolute priority and will take precedence over all other actions
- Seek specialist advice if required

Dorset Police **will not**:

- Send you away believing that it is not a police matter
- Approach your family or community leaders
- Share information without your consent
- Attempt any form of mediation