

Honour Based Violence, Force Marriage and Female Genital Mutilation

Honour based abuse, forced marriage and female genital mutilation (FGM) are grave violations of human rights. Everyone has the right to live without fear, to not be abused, threatened or controlled.

If you are worried about the risk of abuse, threats of violence, forced marriage or FGM from family or the community either towards yourself or another, help is out there.

So called **Honour Based Violence** 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 pre-vent a person from bringing shame to a fam-ily or community, or punish them for doing so. Honour Based Violence will often go hand in hand with forced marriages, although this is not always the case.

Forced Marriage is where one or both spouses do not or cannot consent to the marriage and duress is used by family, friends or the community to get the person(s) to get married. 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 can in some cases be child abuse. Forced Marriage is not the same as an arranged marriage where both parties fully consent to the marriage.

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

Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) 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. FGM 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, Honour Based Violence and Female Genital Mutilation are a grave violation of your rights and help is out there. Everyone has the right to live without fear, to not be abused, threatened or controlled.

Who can help?

If you are worried about the risk of violence, threats of violence 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.

Dorset Police- 101 or you can call 999 where there is an emergency. We have specialists who can provide advice and officers will aim to treat all information in confidence.

Call **Crimestoppers** anonymously on 0800 555 111

If you come to Dorset Police we will:

- Believe you
- Recognise and record your wishes as the victim
- If you are under 18 years old, refer to the Child Abuse Investigation Team
- 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

Other Agencies who can help:

- **Karma Nirvana Honour Network Helpline** - 0800 5999 247 / www.karmanirvana.org.uk
- **National Domestic Abuse Helpline** - 0808 2000 247 / www.nationaldomesticviolencehelpline.org.uk
- **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 020 7008 0151 or 020 7008 1500 (outside office hours) or seek [advice online](#)

Outreach Services (24 hours)

Outreach workers can support you wherever you are. Outreach workers can talk to you on the phone or meet you on a one to one basis. They also run drop-ins across Dorset where you can meet other people in similar situations and receive on-going support.

- Bournemouth Outreach - 01202 547641
- Dorset County You First - 0800 032 5204
- Poole Outreach - 01202 710777

More information about local services can be found at the [Dorset for You website](#).

Leaving the country?

If you are at an airport you must approach a uniformed staff member - police officer, UK Border Force, HM Customs & Revenue official or a uniformed airline official - urgently requesting to speak with police.

Advice and support for children and young people:

- **Childline** - Call 0800 111 / www.childline.org.uk