

*`You are not a drop in the
ocean, you are the entire
ocean in a drop`*

Rumi



Shakti Information
& Education Project



Registered Scottish Charity Number SC 008837

Shakti Women's Aid is a company limited by
guarantee registration number SC273279

Shakti Women's Aid

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Anila Mirza
Team Leader
Outreach Team
Shakti Women`s Aid



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Shakti Women's Aid

- Established 1986
- Shakti = Strength, derived from Sanskrit language
- Staff- 24
- 18 Languages: Hindi, Punjabi, Urdu, Arabic, Nepali, Polish, Spanish, Greek, German etc.
- Main office in Edinburgh-Outreach Service in Fife, Tayside, & Forth Valley



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Shakti Outreach Services

- Tayside
- Aberdeen
- Stirling and Forth Valley
- Fife
- East Lothian
- Midlothian
- West Lothian

BAME: LGBT+ and Domestic Abuse

Shakti Women`s Aid

MAITRI
BME LGBT+ service



Statistics Jan 2019- Dec 2019

- **Total case 543**
- One Off Contact (23)
- Outreach - C / FV (47)
- Outreach - Edinburgh (155)
- Outreach - EMW Lothian (18)
- Outreach - Fife (32)
- Outreach - Tayside (51)
- Housing Support (228)
- Refuge – (11)





Definition

**Definition of Domestic Abuse in
context of BME**

Why is it different??

Definition of domestic Abuse & BME women

Domestic abuse is always domestic abuse and can happen to anyone. However, for BME women, the abuse can be inflicted not only from a partner or ex-partner, but also from immediate and extended family members, whether they are living in the UK or abroad.



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How does Domestic abuse look like for BME Women?





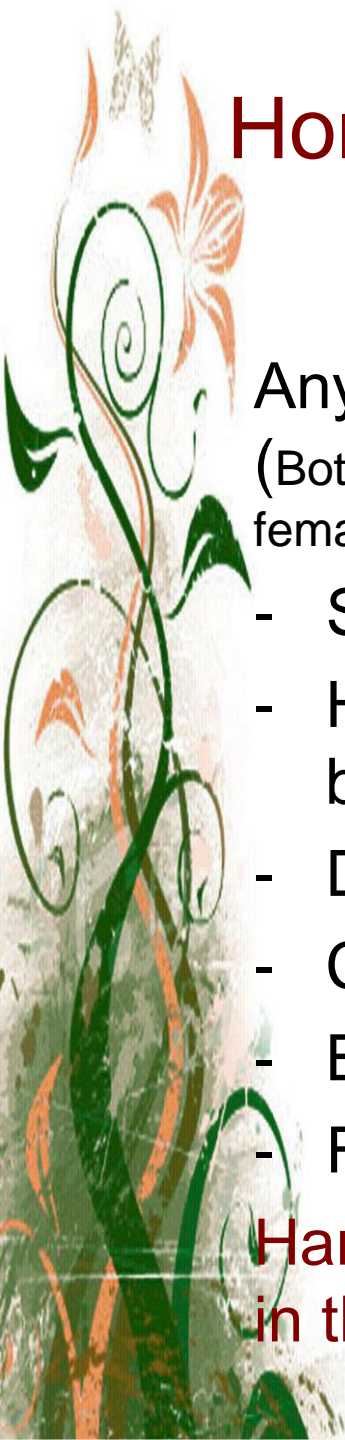
Concept of Honour

- What would be considered shameful or dishonourable in your family/community/society?

What Honour/Izzat/Sharaf/Namus means in BME community?

- Concepts of 'honour' can be different from family to family, they are like a set of codes.
- An effective patriarchal tool: applying to men and women, but applied differently, with penalties for breach of 'honour' ('shame') varying.
- Links the behaviour of women to the welfare of the community.
- Used to control sexuality.
- A family's relationship to honour is defined by the (male) head of that family.
- Concept changes slower in migrant communities and is hard to challenge.





Honour Based Abuse (HBA) – Who could be at risk?

Anyone who breaches the ‘honour code’ of the family:
(Both male and female could be at risk but the consequences for females can be different)

- Sexual Orientation/LGBTI
- Having a relationship with someone not approved by family/community
- Dressing ‘against’ own religion and culture
- Choosing a different way of living
- Building friendship outside the cultural norms
- Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)

Harmful Cultural Practices: FGM and Forced Marriage in the name of honour to ‘control’ purity/ virginity

Case Examples

Honour killing

Killed by her mother and brother in 1998
(Rukhsana Naz died at 19)



Killed by parents in 2003
as she was becoming “too westernised”.
(Shafilia Ahmed (died at 17)



Killed By her family in 2006
“In the name of love”
(Banaz Mahmud 20 years old)





What's next?

“Marriage fixes everything”

Arranged Marriage Vs Forced
Marriage



What is an Arranged Marriage?

- Arranged marriage is an ancient, alive and evolving tradition in many societies.
- Family, friends and community play a role in bringing two suitable partners together.
- The prospective bride and groom will determine when they are ready for marriage and reject and accept presented proposals.
- The prospective bride and groom will have free choice and be the final decision makers in the marriage.



What is *Forced* Marriage?

‘A forced marriage is a marriage in which one or both spouses do not (or, in the case of children and some adults at risk, cannot) consent to the marriage and duress is involved. Duress can include physical, psychological, financial, sexual and emotional pressure.’

Scottish Government

Forced Marriage : Protection Through the Law



Forced Marriage etc (Protection and Jurisdiction)(Scotland) Act 2011: Main Provisions of the Act

- To introduce Forced Marriage Protection Orders (FMPO) to protect people from being forced to marry, or who have already been so forced, without their free and full consent.
- To make it a criminal offence to breach a FMPO.
- To enable Scottish Ministers to apply the provisions of part one of the Act to civil partnerships.
- To require statutory agencies to respond appropriately.
- To clarify the authority of the sheriff court for annulling such marriages.



Criminalisation of forced marriage – the new offence

- Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 – section 122 - in force as of 30 September 2014
- Offence if a person “(a) uses violence, threats or any other form of coercion for the purpose of causing another person to enter into a marriage and (b) believes , or ought reasonably to believe, that the conduct may cause the other person to enter into the marriage without free and full consent.”
- Criminal investigation doesn't prevent a protected person or third party from applying for a FMP0 or any other civil or criminal protection or assistance



Consequences For Victims

In addition to being taken out of education or employment there are greater risks.....

- Theft (e.g. of passport, money and belongings)
- Unlawful imprisonment and restriction of freedom of movement and association
- Abduction and kidnapping
- Rape
- Enforced pregnancy
- Abortion
- **Murder and mutilation**



How we can help – in the UK

- Forced Marriage Unit (FMU) national helpline
- Contact Shakti and Hemat Gryffe (Scotland)
- 24 hours Forced Marriage Helpline **0800 027 1234**.
- Work with police, social workers, teachers, welfare officers, health professionals and other key stakeholders in UK to protect people at risk.
- Provide support, information and contacts.
- Arrange safe accommodation in UK.
- Immigration assistance
- FMPO



What is FGM?

- According to WHO FGM refers to: ‘All procedures which involve the partial or total removal of the external genitalia or injury to the female genital organs whether for cultural or any other non-therapeutic reasons’



Factors motivating FGM

- To suppress female sexuality (before and during marriage)
- To make sex more pleasurable for men
- To 'clean/purify' women (uncircumcised women portrayed as 'dirty')
- Cultural identity: tradition of FGM is older and more important than the concerns of any individual
- To ensure marriageability
- Religion did not emerge as a 'credible' rationale

Domestic Abuse and BME women

Internal and external barriers

On average, a BME woman goes to 17 agencies before receiving the help she needs



Internal Conflicts for BME

women

- Conflicts caused by Honour and Shame
- Social acceptance of domestic abuse/gender based violence
- Fears of Racism or Negative Prejudice
- Fear of isolation from family and community
- Lack of knowledge/poor understanding of how to ask for help and how things work
- Poor understanding/experience of confidentiality
- Fear of deportation and abandonment
- Financial dependency/NRPF
- Children





External/Institutional Barriers

- Language barrier
- Children
- Racism & discrimination still an issue
- Lack of services or safe places to go
- Lack of understanding of the system and services available
- Immigration Status - Fear of being deported
- No Recourse to Public Funds (NRPF)





RACISM

- **BIA**
- **PREJUDICE**
- **STEROTYP**
- **DISCRIMINATION**



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UNDERSTANDING THE PRIVILEGE SYSTEM

How can we challenge it




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Saad, explains 'as a young black girl in the UK, I was made aware of white privilege from a young age' my mum sat me down and said, because you are black, because you are a woman, because you are Muslim you are going to have to work three times as hard as everyone else to get ahead, you have these three things against you'. 'My mother was not talking about my race, religion or gender being flawed, but rather pointing out to me to a racist and patriarchal society' 'I felt overlooked and ignored by teachers, despite being one of the top students in the class'(Saad-p.38)





56% of Scottish secondary school teachers said they were aware of pupils in their school who had experienced bullying based on race or ethnicity.

(Lough Dennell, B.L. and Logan, C. (2015).

Prejudice-based bullying in Scottish schools: A research report. Glasgow: Equality and Human Rights Commission.).



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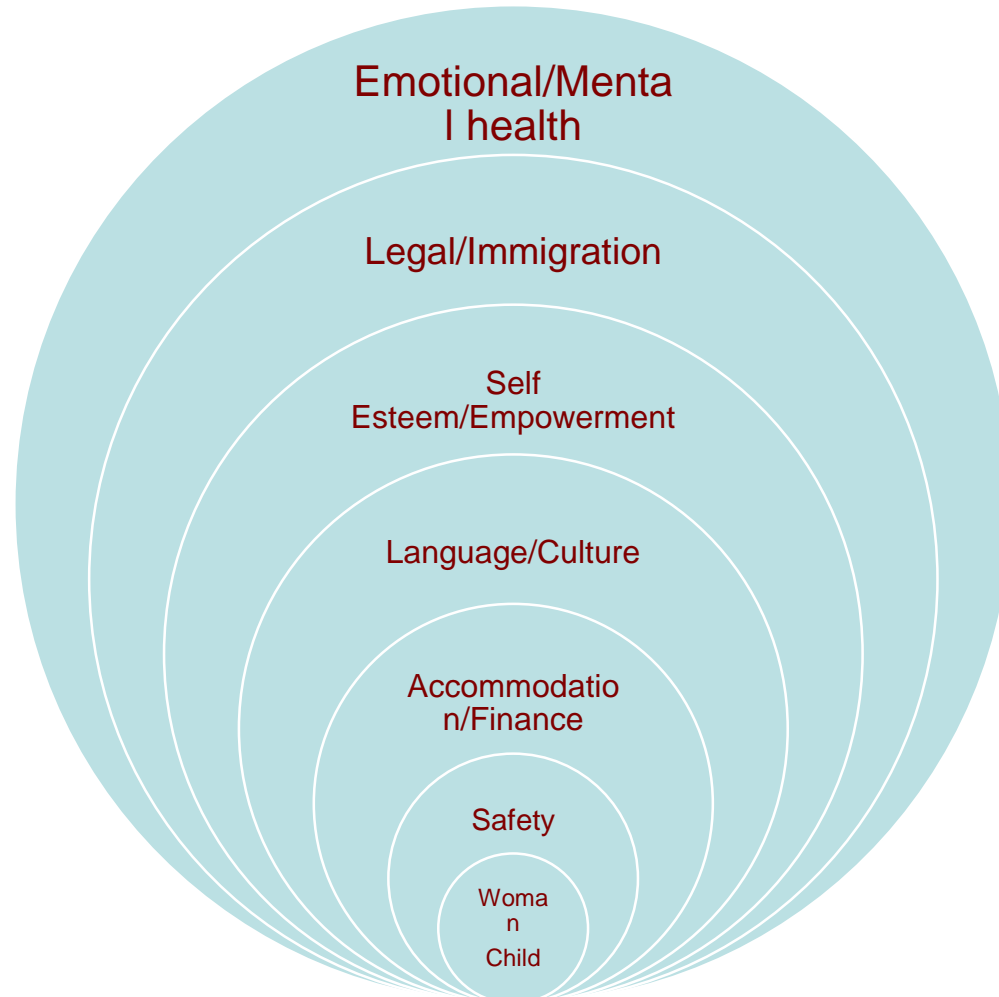
Assisting BME Women Experiencing Domestic Abuse



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Role of Shakti



A decorative vertical graphic on the left side of the slide, featuring stylized green and orange floral and vine motifs. The design includes swirling green lines, orange and green leaves, and a small orange flower at the top.

Biggest Challenge: NRPF

What is No recourse to public funds?

No Access

- No access to most benefits including Income-based JSA, Housing benefit, Child Benefit or Tax Credits (even for British child), ESA, DLA & others
- No Temporary or Permanent housing from a local authority.
- No access to Home Office Asylum support – Asylum seekers fund.



Funding for women on Spouse Visas

- Only applicable to those on Spouse visa's.
- Can apply for permanent residency on grounds of 2 year domestic abuse rule
- Notify Home Office that you wish to apply for visa and request a change of circumstances
- If accepted, you will receive confirmation of 3 months stay in the UK.
- Apply for all state benefits for three months till application is submitted and a decision is made.





First response

“I told my teacher that my family was taking me away to Pakistan to marry and I might not come back after summer holidays. She said, ‘Is this not part of your culture to marry at this age?’ I wish she could help and I didn't have to go through such ordeal.” TN

“I was 14 when I left home due to risk of a forced marriage. I went to my local police station and spoke to a police officer. He listened and believed me and that changed my life.” Jaswinder Sangera

Please remember this could be the only chance for someone

Remember!

- FGM and Forced Marriage are harmful practices in the name of culture/religion
- Do not be fearful to ask questions to the woman and to explore further
- Be aware of your own prejudices and biasness
- Do not share information without the consent of the woman.
- Do not contact an interpreter without her consent.
- Do not assume she will want to see a worker from the same background as herself.



Useful References

Chaudhry. F et al (2005) ***Right to Choose? Research into Domestic Abuse and Forced Marriages within Black Minority Ethnic Communities in Glasgow***, Glasgow: Strathclyde Police.

Anitha, S. (2011) ***Legislating Gender Inequalities: The Nature and Patterns of Domestic Violence Experienced by South Asian Women With Insecure Immigration Status in the United Kingdom***, SAGE Online Violence Against Women Journal 17 [Accessed December 2011]

Thiara, R.K, & Roy, S. (2010) ***Vital Statistics: the experiences of BAMER women & children facing violence & abuse***, London: Imkaan

Crimes of the Community: Honour based Violence in the UK, 2nd Ed., London: Centre for Social Cohesion (2010)



Useful Weblinks

FC Office site (Forced Marriage, FGM, child abduction) - <http://www.fco.gov.uk/en/travel-and-living-abroad/when-things-go-wrong>

Reunite International - www.reunite.org

Karma Nirvana - www.karmanirvana.org.uk

**International Campaign Against Honour Killings
www.stophonourkillings.com**

FORWARD www.forwarduk.org.uk

Solas Anois solasanois@solacewomensaid.org

More links available through Shakti Website




Real Women-Unheard Stories 2017



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If you need further information please
contact us through:

E-mail: info@shaktiedinburgh.co.uk

Tel: 01314752399

Web: www.shaktiedinburgh.co.uk

Thank you all!!!!!!

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