



Policy Title Honour Based Violence
CCMT Sponsor ACC Crime and Criminal Justice
Department/Area Crime Support
Section/Sector Headquarters

CONTENTS:

1.0 Rationale

2.0 Intention

3.0 General Principles

4.0 Forms of Honour Based Violence

5.0 Guidance, Procedures & Tactics

6.0 Challenges & Representations

7.0 Communication

7.1 [Links to Police National Legal Database/Other](#)

7.2 [Implementation Strategy \(Policy Impact Assessment\)](#)

8.0 Compliance and Certification

8.1 [Human Rights Audit](#)

8.2 [Diversity Impact Assessment](#)

8.3 [Diversity \(Human Resources\)](#)

8.4 [Management of Police Information \(MoPI\)](#)

8.5 [Community Engagement Standards](#)

8.6 [Data Protection](#)

8.7 [Freedom of Information Act](#)

8.8 [Protective Markings](#)

8.9 [Health & Safety at Work](#)

9.0 Monitoring and Review

1.0 Rationale

'So-called Honour Based Violence' is a fundamental abuse of Human Rights.

There is no honour in the commission of murder, rape, kidnap and the many other acts, behaviour and conduct which make up 'violence in the name of so-called honour'.

It is a collection of practices, which are used to control behaviour within families to protect perceived cultural & religious beliefs and/or honour. Such violence can occur when perpetrators perceive that a relative has shamed the family and / or community by breaking their honour code.

Women are predominantly (but not exclusively) the victims of 'so called honour based violence', which is used to assert male power in order to control female autonomy and sexuality.

'Honour Based Violence' can be distinguished from other forms of violence, as it is often committed with some degree of approval and/or collusion from family and / or community members.

Examples may include murder, un-explained death (suicide), fear of or actual forced marriage, controlling sexual activity, domestic abuse (including psychological, physical, sexual, financial or emotional abuse), child abuse, rape, kidnapping, false imprisonment, threats to kill, assault, harassment, forced abortion. This list is not exhaustive.

Such Violence cuts across all cultures, nationalities, faith groups and communities. It transcends national and international boundaries.

2.0 Intention

The implementation of this policy is intended to ensure that Thames Valley Police achieves a consistent and professional approach to policing incidents of so-called honour based violence.

The intention is that this policy will:

- Reduce the likelihood of future harm including, homicide, serious injury and acts of violence.
- Identify and reduce the risk to adult and child victims from diverse communities within Thames Valley.
- Maintain and enhance public confidence in the police response to any HBV incident or crime.
- Facilitate the effective use of police powers and highlight national guidance and best practice to protect victims and potential victims from harm.

3.0 General Principles

3.1 Information

The ACPO Definition of Honour Based Violence is:

'Honour based violence' is a crime or incident, which has or may have been committed to protect or defend the honour of the family and/or community'.

Murder in the name of so-called honour is the gravest of crimes commissioned in the belief that it will restore honour or hide shame.

Women are predominantly (but not exclusively) the victims of 'so called honour based violence', which is used to assert male power in order to control female autonomy and sexuality.

Most victims are wives killed or injured by their husbands, with fathers, mothers or brothers responsible for killing or injuring a daughter in the family. A small percentage of victims are male, deemed to be involved in an inappropriate relationship (homosexual or as partners of the female party), or for showing support for the victim. HBV can often be a child protection issue.

'So-called Honour Based Violence' is not a form of violence but the reason given for violence. It cuts across all cultures, nationalities, faith groups and communities. Such violence transcends national and international boundaries.

Features of this type of crime include relatives colluding or conspiring, aiding and abetting the violence or killing, planning the act in advance, trying to conceal the act to appear as suicide or accident, and an agreement that the victim deserved to die.

Incidents of HBV can include murder, un-explained death (suicide), fear of or actual forced marriage, female genital mutilation, controlling sexual activity, ¹domestic abuse (including psychological, physical, sexual, financial or emotional abuse), child abuse, rape, kidnapping, false imprisonment, threats to kill, assault, harassment, forced abortion. This list is not exhaustive, indeed any incident or crime can be HBV motivated e.g. missing person report. A fuller version of constituent elements and supporting organisations of HBV can be found at the following link: [Honour Based Violence \(HBV\) Resource Document](#)

3.2 Causation Factors

Justification is misguidedly derived from the restoration of honour and causation can often be derived from issues such as:-

- Inappropriate make-up or dress
- The existence of a boyfriend
- Rejecting forced marriage

¹ Refer to ACPO Domestic Abuse definition.

- Pregnancy outside marriage
- Interfaith relationships
- Leaving a spouse or seeking divorce
- Kissing or intimacy in a public place
- Becoming too westernised in the eyes of the family

4.0 Forms of Honour Based Violence

The collection of crimes, incidents and practices which would be classed as acts and offences of / motivated by 'so-called Honour Based Violence' are detailed below. This list is by no means exhaustive and any incident which is suspected to be HBV motivated should be dealt with according to the procedures contained within this policy.

4.1 Domestic Abuse (DA)

Domestic abuse and violence against women cuts across all communities, cultures and religious belief systems, much of HBV is rooted within domestic abuse. Some may also believe that their religious belief or cultural system permits such acts. The needs of ethnic minority victims may differ depending on their culture and heritage. This might be in terms of issues of perceived racism, language, and accessing relevant support services. Domestic violence may take on different forms within specific communities. Reduced access to services and social isolation can increase risks.

Further information and guidance on [domestic abuse](#) is available on the Force Crime Management Unit intranet site.

4.2 Child Abuse

There are clear links between domestic abuse and child abuse. Analysis of HBV related incidents in the Metropolitan Police Service showed that one in four victims were under 18 years old. Children living in a home where domestic abuse is present are at a higher risk of being subjected to forms of abuse, which in some cases can be linked to forced marriage or female genital mutilation.

Further information and guidance on [child abuse](#) is available on the Force Crime Management Unit intranet site.

4.3 Child Marriage

Child marriage is a practice in which the parents of a child arrange a future marriage with another child's parents. The betrothal is considered a binding contract upon the families, the breaking of which can have serious consequences for both the family and the children.

4.4 Forced Marriage (FM)

The ACPO and FMU accepted definition of forced marriage:

'Is a marriage conducted without the valid consent of one or both parties where duress is a factor (A Choice by Right June 2000)'.

Forced marriage is a marriage conducted without the full and free consent of both parties where duress is a factor. Parents who force their children to marry often justify their behaviour as protecting their children, building stronger families, and preserving cultural or religious traditions. Victims of forced marriage are often (young) women who are taken abroad by their family without knowing that they are to be married; returning with a new husband or not returning at all.

An arranged marriage is not a forced marriage, in an arranged marriage the families take a leading role in choosing the marriage partner but the marriage is entered into freely by both people. Forced marriage is an abuse of human rights, and a form of domestic violence and child abuse.

In some cases people may be taken abroad without knowing that they are to be married. When they arrive in the country their passports may be taken by their family to try and stop them from returning home or seeking help. People who suspect that they may be at risk of being forcibly married need to be aware of this practice and we need to ensure that they know what to do and where to turn if it happens to them. Practical guidance is available in the ACPO and F&CO document below. All reports from persons concerned about the risk of Forced Marriage must be recorded in accordance with the guidance in section 5.2 and referred to the Public Protection Unit Detective Inspector for review and follow-up contact with the individual.

Further information and guidance on forced marriage is available at:

[ACPO, Foreign & Commonwealth Office and the Home Office \(2005\) Dealing with Cases of Forced Marriage: Guidelines for Police](#)

[Forced Marriage \(Civil Protection\) Act 2007](#) - for protection of persons fearing forced marriage.

[Matrimonial Causes Act 1973](#) - for persons who have entered into a forced marriage without valid consent.

4.5 Bride Price

Bride price or bride wealth is an amount of money, goods or property paid to the parents of a woman by the family of a prospective groom for the right to marry her. Bride price is revered as a symbol of sincerity and good faith that brings together the bride and groom's families however, it can become a licence for a man to treat a woman as a purchased good.

4.6 Missing Person

All missing person enquiries have the potential to become critical incidents. If there are antecedents of HBV there is a substantially increased risk in missing

person cases. Where there are suspicions of, or known previous incidents of HBV, cases should be assessed as having the potential to be a critical incident.

Officers and staff should carefully consider third party missing person reports. Relatives may attempt to use police to locate a missing relative who has escaped HBV, or they may try to mislead officers by presenting another family member posing as the person you are seeking. When dealing with missing person reports where the reporting person is not a relative e.g. employers or schools, consideration should be given as to why the family have not reported the individual missing.

Further information and guidance on [missing persons](#) is available on the Force Crime Management Unit intranet site.

4.7 Dowry

A dowry is a gift of money, goods or property given by the bride's family to that of the groom to permit the marriage. This can represent a real financial burden to the parents of the bride, demands for more dowries that cannot be met may result in severe abuse and harassment of the bride. The term dowry death is where a wife is murdered for failing to bring a sufficient dowry to the marriage.

4.8 Rape

Some societies punish victims of rape as well as the perpetrators, holding the belief that being raped can dishonour the victim and their family and community. This can lead to the victim being murdered or committing suicide to due to the social shame and stigma attached with being a rape victim. In some cultures rape itself is used as a form of punishment and a method for asserting control, when this occurs the victim of the rape is a female relative of an individual targeted for retaliation.

4.9 Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)

Female genital mutilation is the term used to refer to the removal of part or all of the female genitalia. In some communities men will not marry a woman that has not been subjected to FGM, as they believe it reduces the risk of the woman engaging in extra-marital affairs. The practice has its roots largely in Africa but also in parts of the Middle East and Asia. FGM is practised within the UK and by taking girls out of the country for the procedure. The Female Genital Mutilation Act 2003 makes it illegal for FGM to be performed in the United Kingdom and for any British person to aid, abet, counsel, or procure FGM on any UK national or resident anywhere in the world even if it is not illegal in that country; this legislation includes parents who allow FGM to be performed on their daughters.

4.10 Acid Attacks

The victim of an attack has acid thrown in their face, with rejection of a marriage proposal or a family dispute offered as sufficient justification for such an act. It is believed that the intention of acid attacks is to disfigure the woman's looks, so that no other man will want her. The woman's family is likely to suffer because an unmarried daughter may be an economic burden.

4.11 Blood Feuds

The custom of blood feuds derives from age-old tribal laws that proclaim that blood must be avenged with blood. Feuds can last for generations, creating a cycle of revenge and murder that can cross international boundaries and transfer to the UK. It has been known for females, used as a commodity, to be given away in marriage as compensation to settle a blood feud, in a practice called Vani or Swara.

4.12 Male Child Preference

Male child preference occurs in societies that value male children above females. The perceived higher worth of males is that they are seen as more likely than daughters to earn wages and provide support to parents. Daughters will eventually leave the family on marriage and require finances for dowry payments, in extreme cases female infanticide and sex-selective abortion acts are committed to prevent the perceived burden of a girl.

4.13 Self-Harm

More women than men self harm², in the UK it has been found that the prevalence of self-harm is disproportionately high among young Asian women³. This is most likely due to a lack of support and the difficulties that can occur when an individual has to conform to differing cultural ideals.

4.14 Suicide and Unexplained deaths

Honour based violence and the emotional and the physical abuse associated with it can play an important role in the circumstances of suicide. A person may have been pressurized into committing suicide, or the family may attempt to conceal a murder as an act of suicide. The Force has a robust unexplained death policy which must be adhered to in all [unexplained deaths](#) where HBV is suspected.

4.15 Kidnap

Kidnaps of persons can occur in HBV for a number of reasons. Examples include kidnap to take persons abroad, to extract information and punishment for perceived transgressions. Kidnaps can also be falsely reported in an effort to locate persons seeking to escape HBV. The Force has a robust [kidnap SOP](#) and any potential kidnap involving HBV must be immediately referred to the HBI for risk assessment by the in call Major Crime SIO.

² http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/health/medical_notes/4067129.stm

³ Bhardwaj A. (2001). Growing up young Asian and female in Britain: a report on self-harm and suicide.

5.0 Guidance, Procedures & Tactics

Research indicates that general violence tends to escalate as it is repeated. Hence all efforts should be made to disrupt, intervene and prevent the offending behaviour. All opportunities for positive action should always be exploited.

Risk identification, assessment and risk management is crucial to:

Reduce the likelihood of future harm to victims including the effects of further violence, serious injury and homicide on adult and child victims, future victims and the public;

Facilitate the effective use of police powers in protecting the public, investigating crime, targeting offenders, intelligence-led policing, reducing and preventing crime, narrowing the justice gap and in contributing to the Criminal Justice System function of holding offenders accountable.

5.1 Response

Where an officer or member of staff is informed of a crime or incident involving HBV, the duty inspector must be informed immediately. In the event of a crime in action this should be dealt with under the normal rules of incident response, taking into account the principles and guidance within this document. In the event of an incident where there is a threat to life the standard actions of immediate referral to HBI and duty superintendent will be followed.

Incidents will be dealt with according to the grading assigned to them. The management of HBV cases will be the responsibility of Domestic Abuse Units for adult victims. The DOM5 and HBV1 risk indicator forms must be completed for all HBV crimes and non-recordable incidents. All cases involving victims aged under 18 years, should be referred to the CAIU and dealt with conjointly with the DAU according to the circumstances.

Processes and relevant forms offering guidance and setting out an appropriate response and considerations are attached at the appendices. If it is a potential kidnap it will be referred to HBI and on call Major Crime SIO.

5.2 Flagging and Recording of Incidents

Following the notification of an Honour Based Violence incident, officers must undertake appropriate action to flag the relevant addresses on Command and Control. This will assist in identifying locations or persons at risk in any future incidents.

It is the responsibility of the reporting officer or PEC Operator to ensure that all CEDAR records involving honour based violence are correctly identified. In all cases the Domestic Risk Indicators must show HBV as a risk factor. The Child Abuse Investigation Unit (CAIU) risk indicator must also be marked in any case involving a person under 18 years of age. Where a report relates to a notifiable crime then the appropriate crime classification will be used. If no

notifiable offence is made out the incident will be classified as 'Honour Based Violence non-recordable'.

Where the CEDAR record relates to an HBV crime or incident which falls within the force domestic abuse definition, the Domestic Incident flag must also be set to 'Y'.

Staff are reminded of the need to ensure that they are aware of the different types of Honour Based Violence crimes and non-recordable incidents listed and explained under sections 3.3 to 3.17. These or any other suspected HBV crimes or incidents must be properly recorded on CEDAR in compliance with the guidance above.

This process will ensure that HBV incidents and crimes are searchable and retrievable.

5.3 Awareness Package

All officers should increase their awareness of HBV issues and how to respond by undertaking the self awareness package available on the intranet: [HBV Presentation](#).

5.4 Further Information

Further information and material is available by clicking on the following links:

[ACPO so-called Honour Based Violence Advice Leaflet](#)

[ACPO so-called Honour Based Violence Tactical Menu of Options](#)

[ACPO so-called Honour Based Violence Resource Document](#)

[Honour Killing MPS Analysis](#)

[ACPO Guidance on Investigating Domestic Abuse 2004](#)

[Forced Marriages Foreign & Commonwealth Office](#)

5.5 Appendices

Appendix A: [HBV1](#) risk indicator form to be used in conjunction with the Dom5 risk indicator for all HBV incidents and crime offences.

Appendix B: Thames Valley Police response guide for officers and staff notified of an HBV incident: [HONOUR BASED VIOLENCE INITIAL RESPONSE GUIDE](#)

Appendix C: Thames Valley Police flow chart outlining processes upon referral of HBV crime / incident to Domestic Abuse Unit or Child Abuse Investigation Unit: [Dealing with cases of Honour Based Violence flowchart](#).

6.0 Challenges & Representations

Challenges/representations in respect of decisions made in applying this policy should be addressed to:

Assistant Chief Constable Crime and Criminal Justice
Thames Valley Police HQ
Kidlington, Oxon. OX5 2NX

7.0 Communication

7.1 Links to Police National Legal Database Other

- Criminal Proceedings and Investigation Act 1996
- Youth Justice and Criminal Evidence Act 1999
- Criminal Justice and Police Act 2001
- Protection from Harassment Act 1997
- Offences against the Person Act 1861
- Sexual Offences Act 1956
- Criminal Damage Act 1971
- Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994
- Criminal Justice Act 1988
- Sect 80 Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984
- Sect 23 Criminal Justice Act 1988
- Sexual Offences Act 1956
- Section 51 of the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994 (intimidating witnesses)
- Common Law[Murder and kidnap]
- Child Abduction Act 1984
- Children Act 1989
- Family Law Act 1996
- TVP Repeat Victimisation Policy
- CPS Service Level Agreement
- TVP – Missing Persons Policy

7.2 Implementation Strategy

A Policy Impact Assessment has been completed for this policy.

8.0 Compliance and Certification

8.1 Human Rights Certification

(i) Legal Basis

The legal basis for this policy is derived from:

- Criminal Proceedings and Investigation Act 1996
- Youth Justice and Criminal Evidence Act 1999
- Criminal Justice and Police Act 2001
- Protection from Harassment Act 1997

- Offences against the Person Act 1861
- Sexual Offences Act 1956
- Criminal Damage Act 1971
- Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994
- Criminal Justice Act 1988
- Sect 80 Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984
- Sect 23 Criminal Justice Act 1988
- Sexual Offences Act 1956
- Section 51 of the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994 (intimidating witnesses)
- Common Law
- Children Act 1989
- Family Law Act 1996

(ii) Human Rights Articles Engaged

It is acknowledged that this policy has the potential to engage the following Articles:

- **Article 2:** Right to life
- **Article 3:** Right not to be subjected to torture, inhuman or degrading treatment
- **Article 4.1:** Right not to be held in slavery or servitude
- **Article 5:** Right to liberty and security
- **Article 6:** Right to a fair trial
- **Article 8:** Right to respect for private and family life

(iii) Prohibition of Discrimination

By engaging any of the aforementioned Articles, there is the potential to engage Article 14 of the European Convention. Article 14 states that the enjoyment of the Rights and Freedoms set forth in the European Convention of Human Rights shall be secured without discrimination on any ground such as sex, race, colour, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, association with a national minority, property, birth or other status. Actions taken as a consequence of this policy will be applied fairly and impartially, having due regard for natural justice and human rights.

8.2 Diversity Impact Assessment

This policy has been assessed for its relevance to the six strands of Diversity and has been rated as 'LOW' relevance.

8.3 Diversity (Human Resources)

In the application of this policy, the Force will not discriminate against any persons regardless of their gender, sexual orientation, race or ethnic origin, religion, age or disability.

8.4 Management of Police Information (MoPI) Compliance

Information deemed 'for a policing purpose', or any data about an individual that is circulated or received by e-mail; or published/downloaded via the intranet or internet or circulated in any other format must comply with [MoPI guidelines](#).

8.5 Community Engagement Strategy and Standards

This policy has the potential to engage the Force Community Engagement Standards.

Please use the following links for further information:

[Community Engagement Strategy Standards](#)

8.6 Data Protection

Personal data processed as a result of this policy will be managed in accordance with the provisions of the Data Protection Act 1998. It is acknowledged that 'sensitive personal data' may be processed and this data will be protected in accordance with the requirements of the Act. Additional care should be taken when disclosing or sharing information to ensure the data is safe in transit.

Specific Information sharing protocols should be in place to ensure that all disclosures made in accordance with this policy take into account the individuals legislative rights.

Any information shared as a result of the operational requirements of this policy is subject to the guidance on information sharing between agencies as set out under sect. 115 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998: Exchange of Personal Information.

Principal areas of law which impact on information sharing:

- The Common Law - The Common Law Duty of Confidence
- The Crime & Disorder Act 1998
- The Data Protection Act 1998
- The Human Rights Act 1998

8.7 Freedom of Information Act

This policy will be publicly available except for the Appendices and the links to the ACPO site, which contain details of police tactics. (Exemption 31.1(a) FOIA 2000). It may be published on the Freedom of Information Internet site.

8.8 Protective Markings

This document is not protectively marked. It can be published without restriction on the Intranet/Internet, apart from the appendices which are

exempt under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 – exemption 31.1(a). Information processed as a result of this policy will be assessed by the originator of that information and have a protective mark assigned. The information should then be managed in accordance with that marker.

8.9 Health & Safety at Work

There are no additional Health and Safety implications beyond those generic considerations already in place for General Patrol and Custody. Statutory duties are set out in the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974 and the Management of Health and Safety at Work regulations 1999.

This policy is to be read in conjunction with the [Force Health and Safety Policy](#) and [Force Health and Safety Manual](#), which set out the requirement for documented risk assessment by a competent person, when exposure to a particular hazard arising from workplace or pre-planned Policing work activity can be said to be 'reasonably foreseeable'. Force documented [Generic Risk Assessments \(GRAs\)](#), governing health and safety considerations for General Patrol and Custody already exist.

9.0 Monitoring and Review

Due to the nature of its subject matter this policy should be reviewed annually to ensure that it remains current and up to date.

A full review will be carried out by the policy author and will examine:

- Changes in legislation
- Court rulings – Domestic, European and Human Rights
- Examples of good practice from other Forces or other organisations
- Changes in Home Office Circulars
- Developments with ACPO Policy Unit
- Representations made by individuals and relevant organisations
- Relevant Equality data